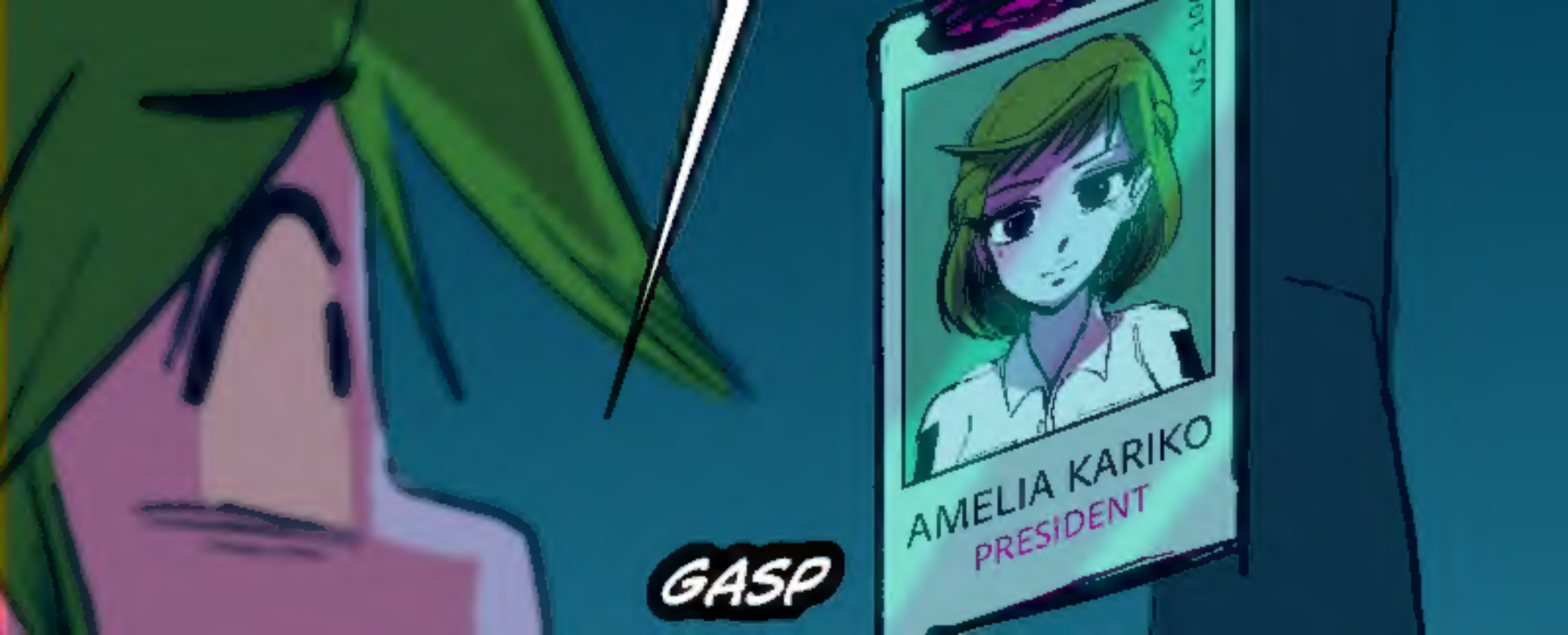
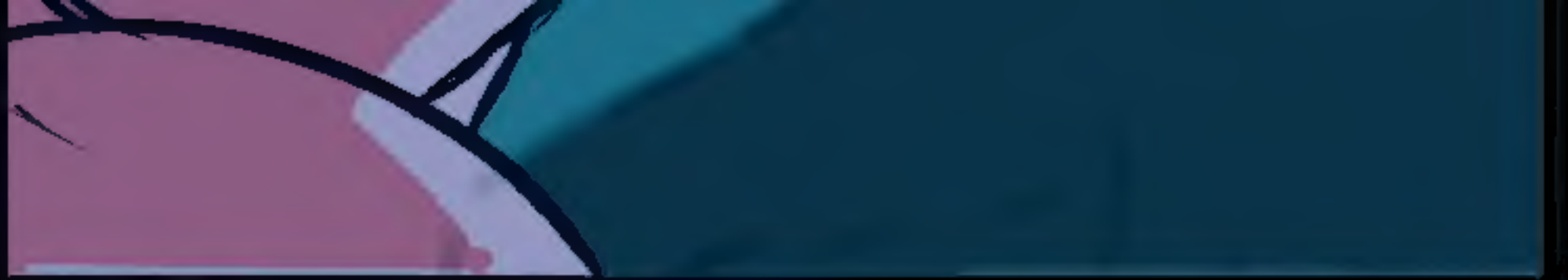
AMELIA'S VSC BADGE!? AND IT SAYS "PRESIDENT".


GASP
AMELIA KARIKO
PRESIDENT

AMELIA..?
SHE IS
REAL!
BUT THEN
WHY DIDN'T IRO
KNOW WHO SHE
WAS?
BECAUSE

SHE DOESN'T EXIST.



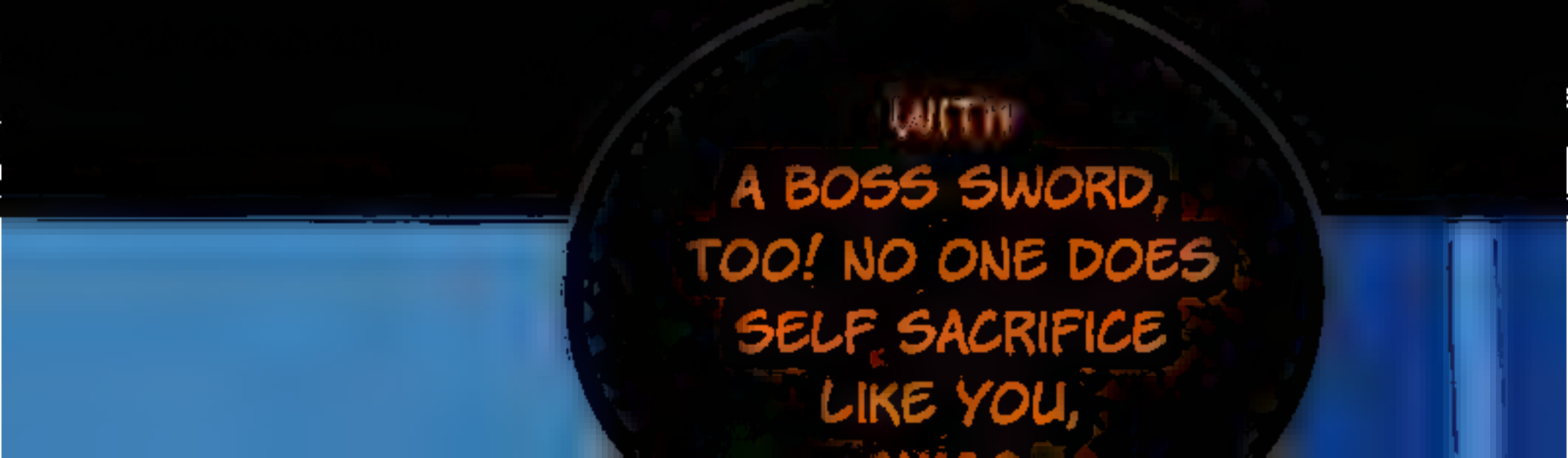
NOT
ANYMORE.

DON... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

HERE!!

DON'T YOU REMEMBER? I FELL THROUGH THE RIFT FROM [REDACTED]'S FAILED LITTLE RESCUE ATTEMPT.
...TO THINK [REDACTED] DIED SAVING YOUR

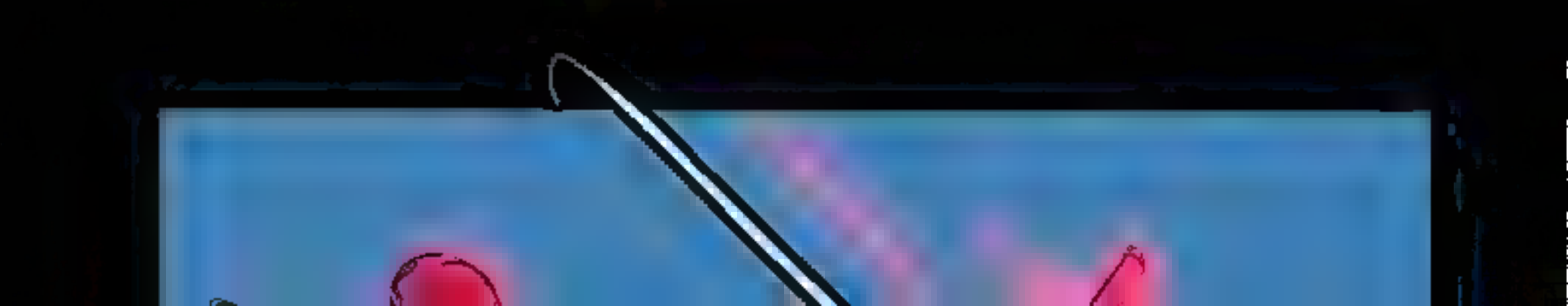
TO COME CRAWLING
BACK.


WITH
A BOSS SWORD,
TOO! NO ONE DOES
SELF SACRIFICE
LIKE YOU,

AMIGO.

STAY
AWAY FROM
ME!

I WAS AFRAID YOU'D MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT.
WHISTLE



SWISH

SHAAA
KGH!?

AGH...!

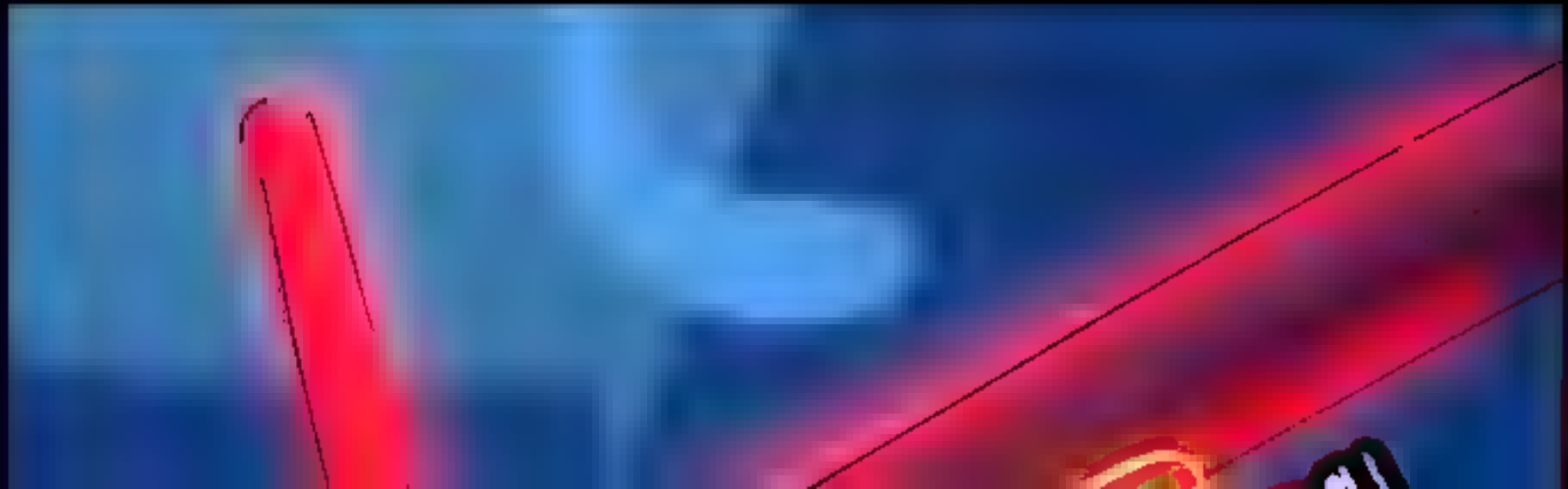
PULL

MY

POWERS AREN'T
WORKING!

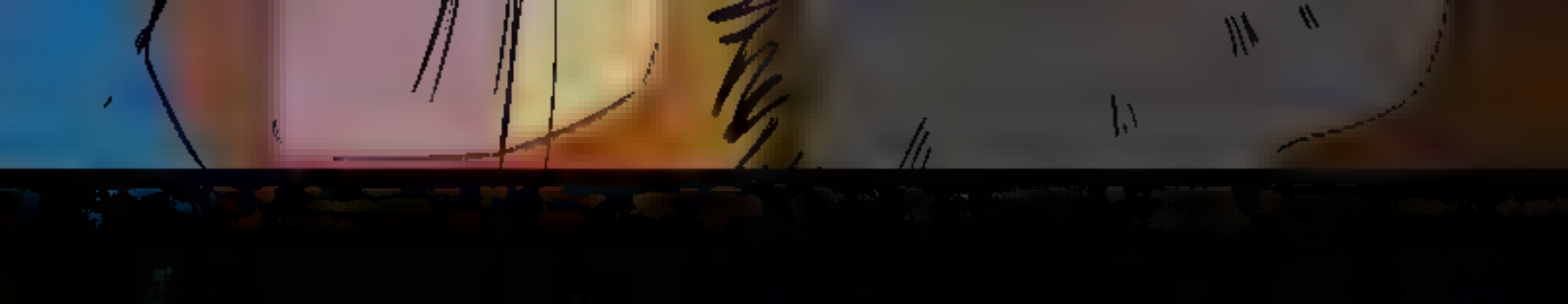
THESE

RED BARS ARE
DOING SOMETHING
TO BLOCK MY
ENERGY!



CATCH

YOU SEE HOW EASY THAT WAS?

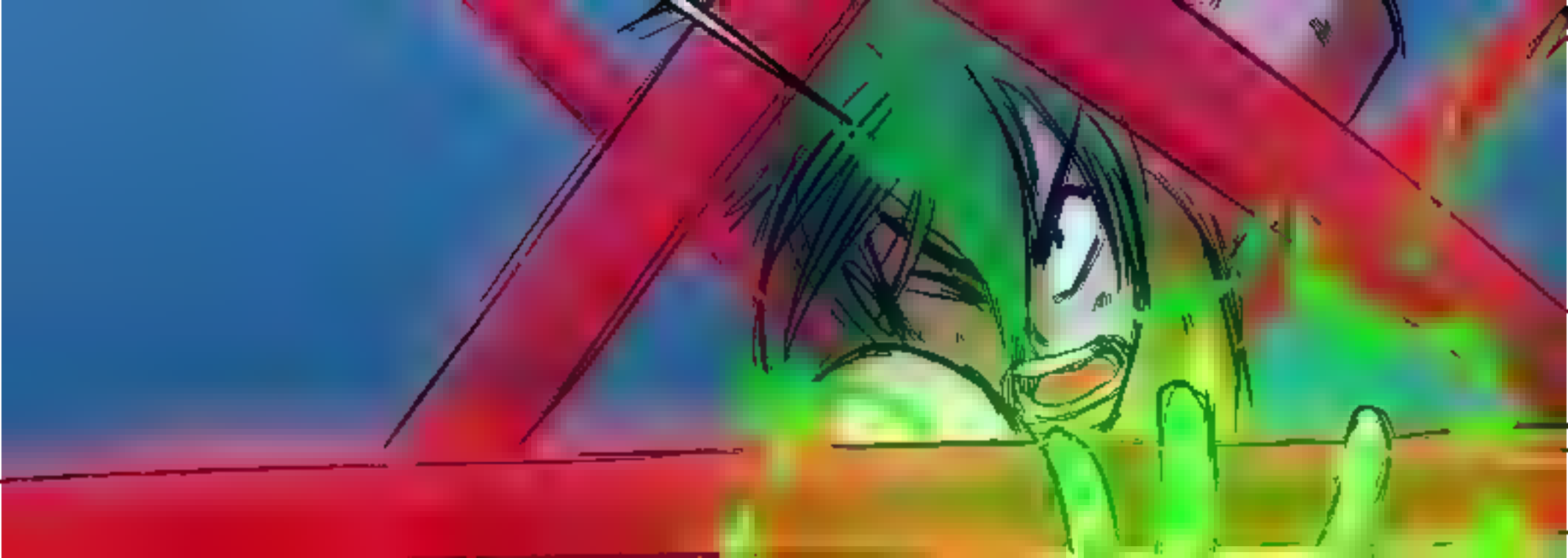


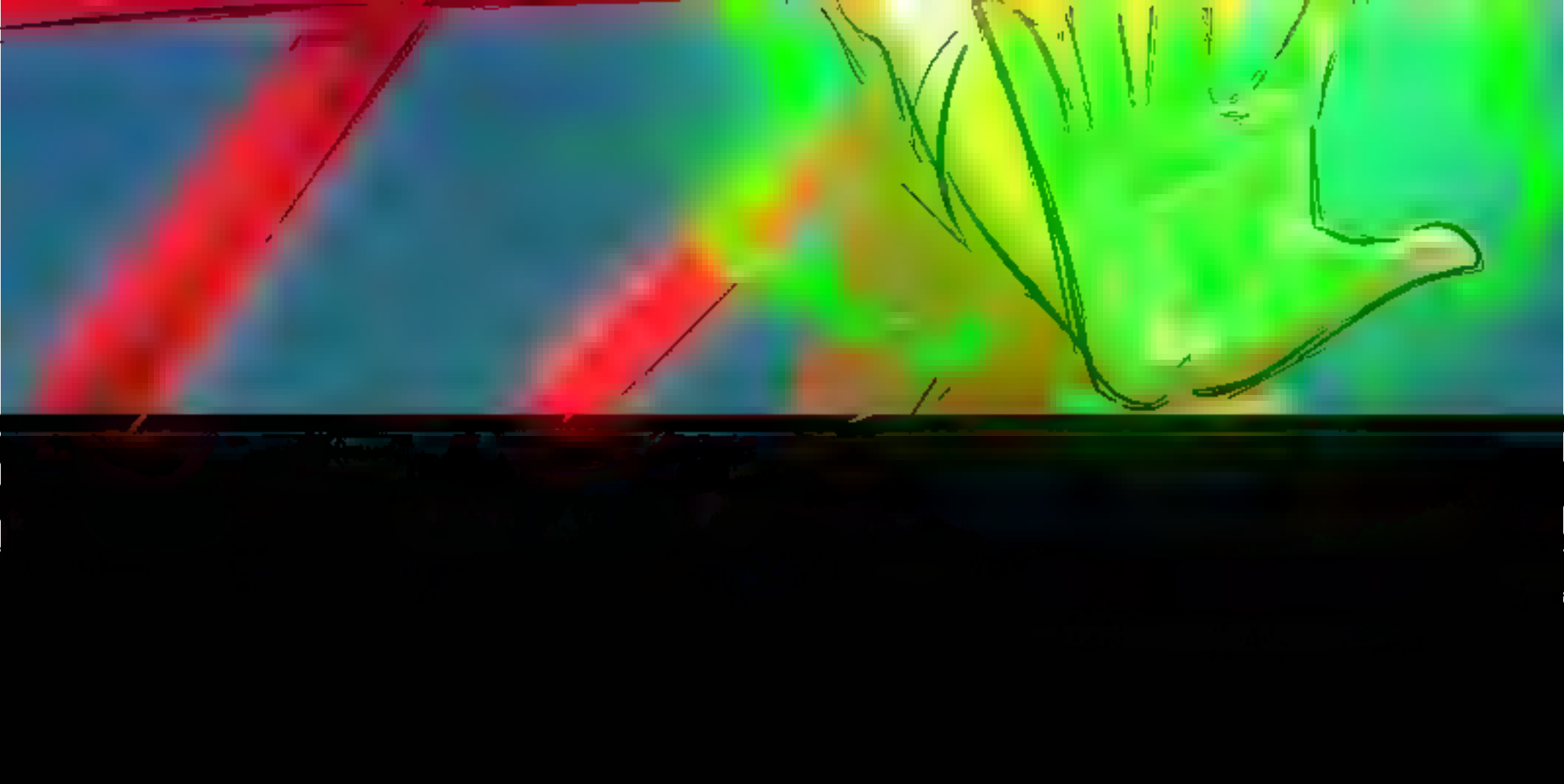
CHAPTER 154
"MY MOTHER TOLD ME"

tremble

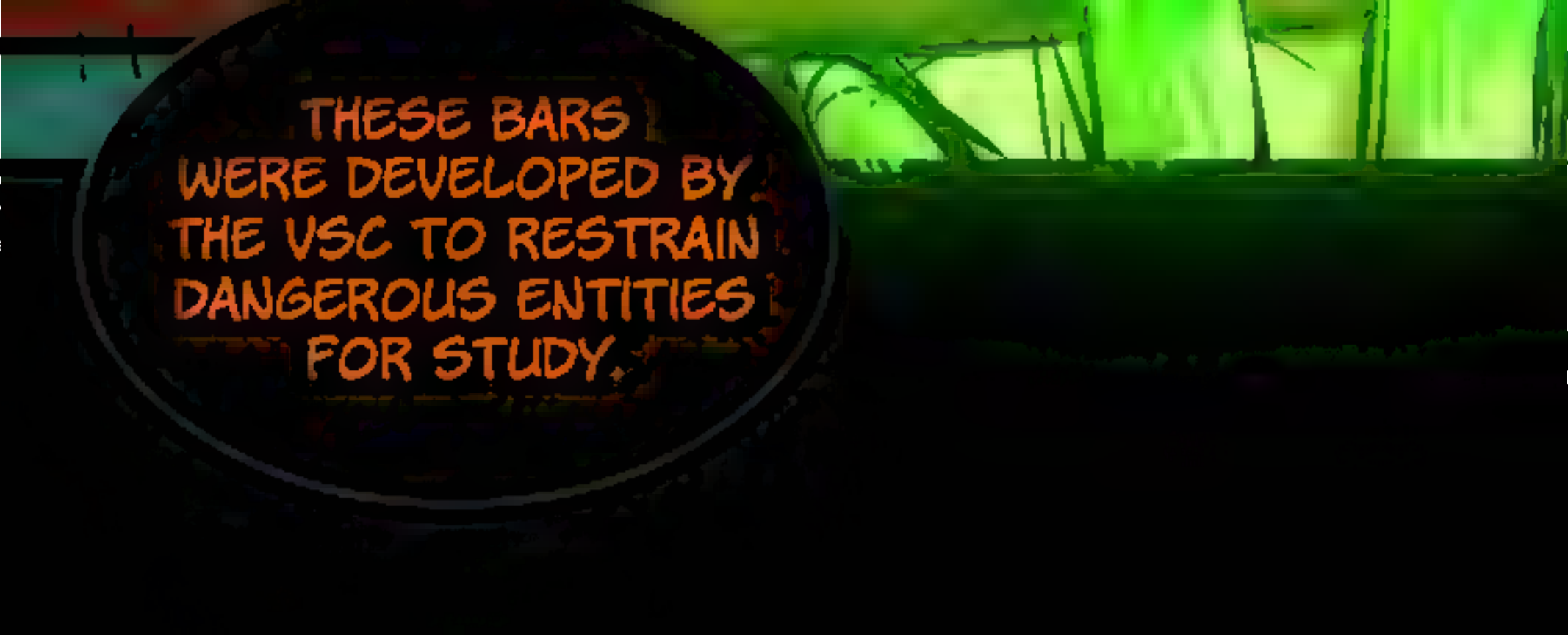
tremble

YOU THINK THIS IS OVER?!

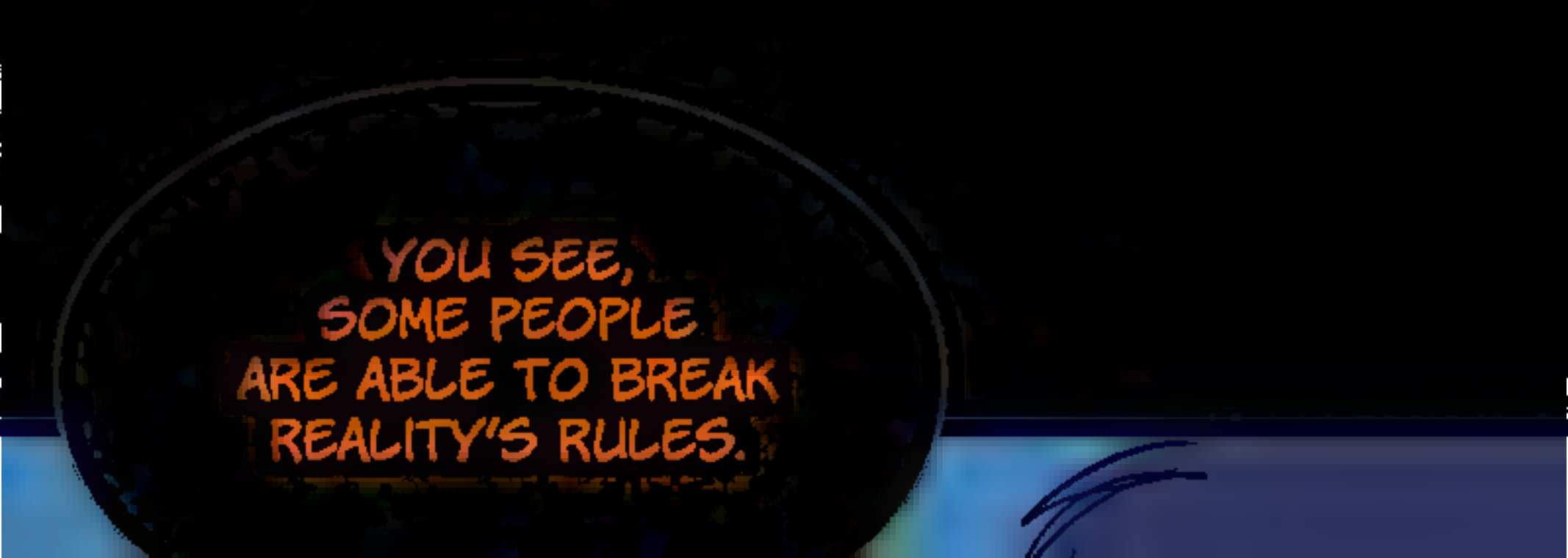




DON'T
WASTE YOUR
ENERGY


THESE BARS WERE DEVELOPED BY THE VSC TO RESTRAIN DANGEROUS ENTITIES FOR STUDY.

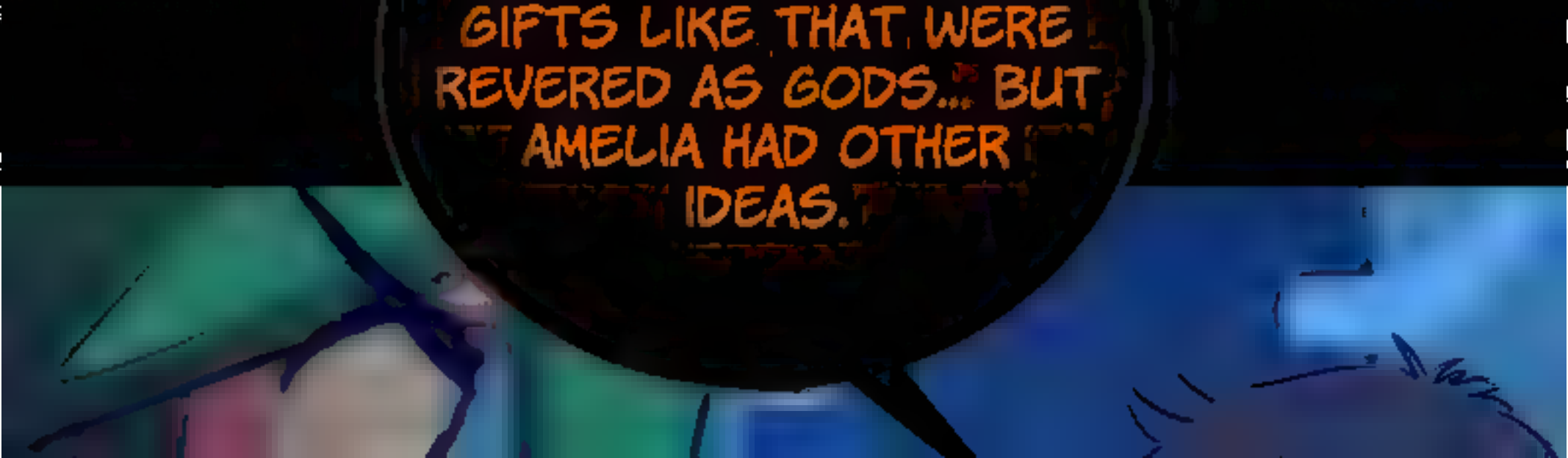
THE BARS EMULATE AND AMPLIFY THE RULES THAT GOVERN ALL OF REALITY... FORCING WHATEVER TOUCHES THEM TO OBEY.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

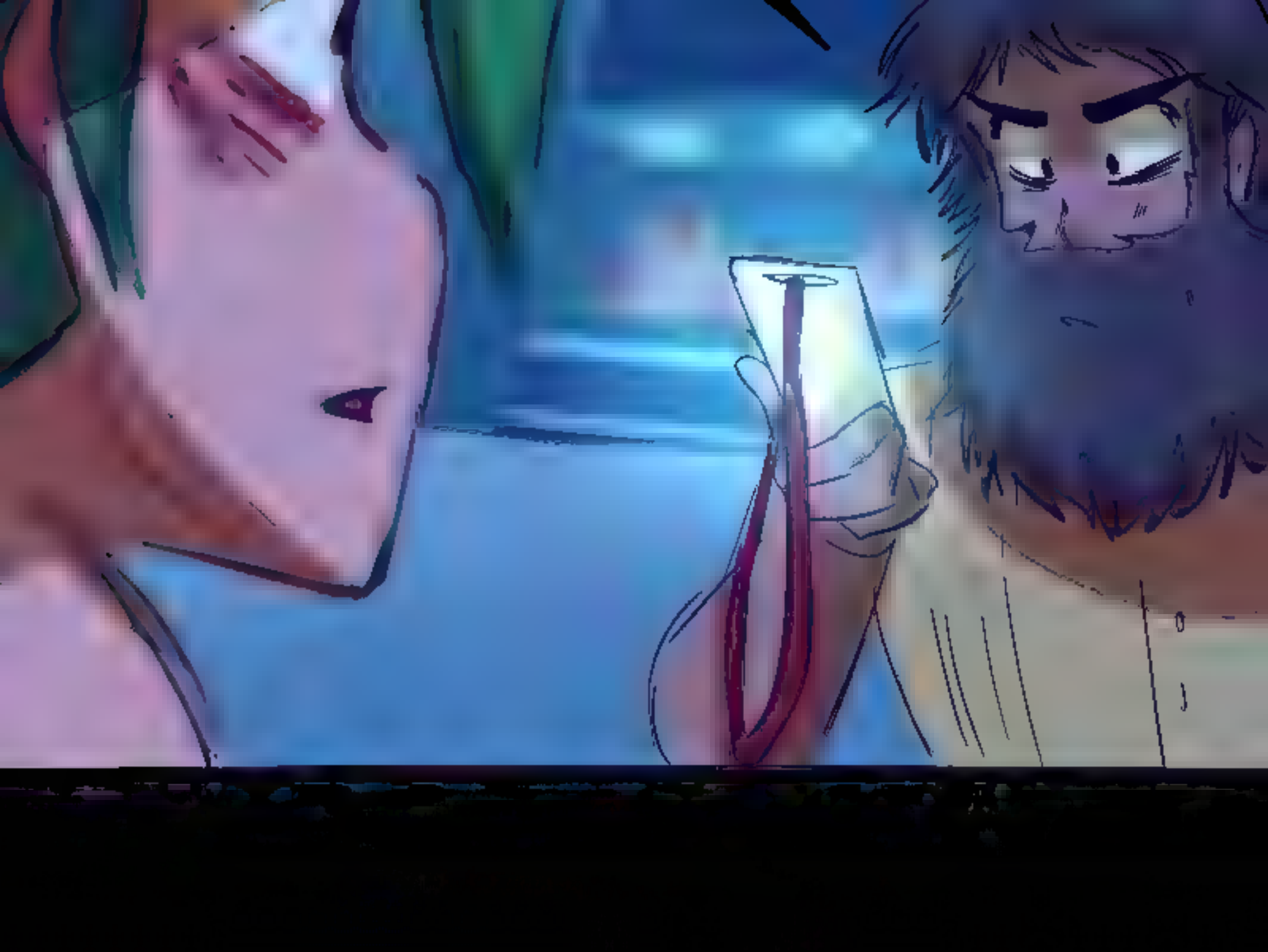

YOU SEE,
SOME PEOPLE
ARE ABLE TO BREAK
REALITY'S RULES.

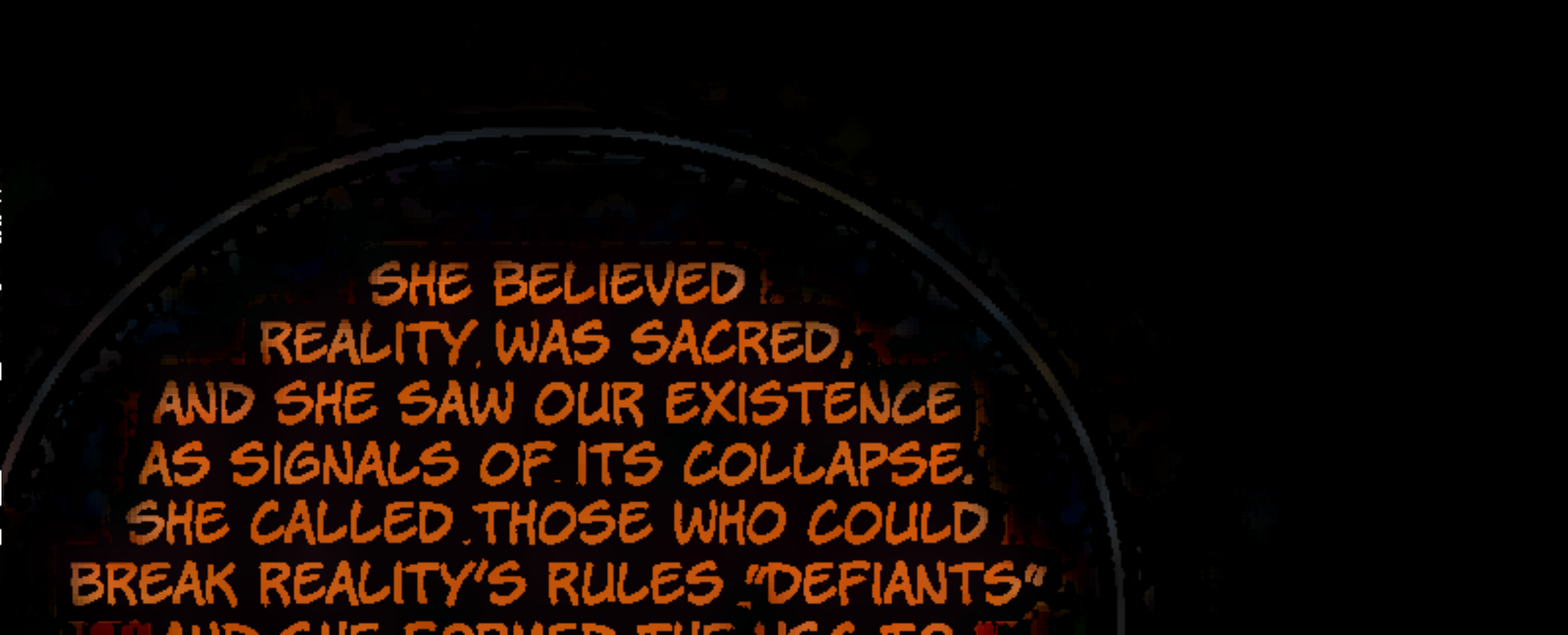
AND
THEY DEVELOP

POWERFUL
ABILITIES.

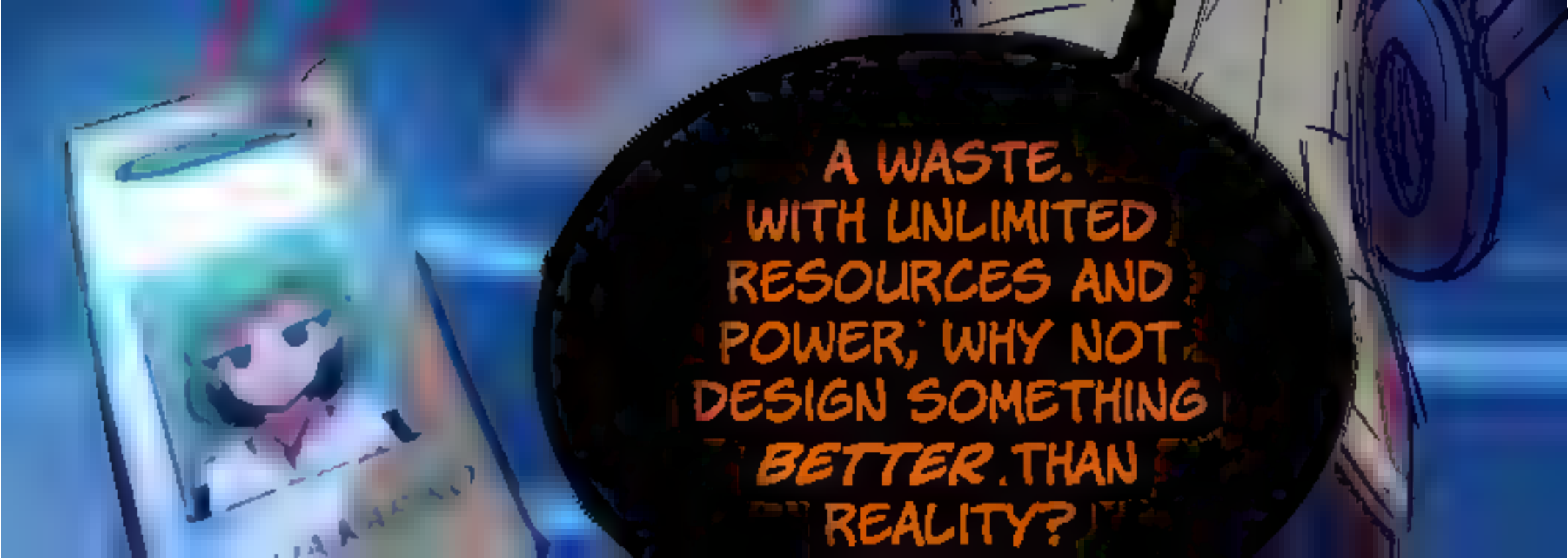
FOR A LONG
TIME, PEOPLE WITH

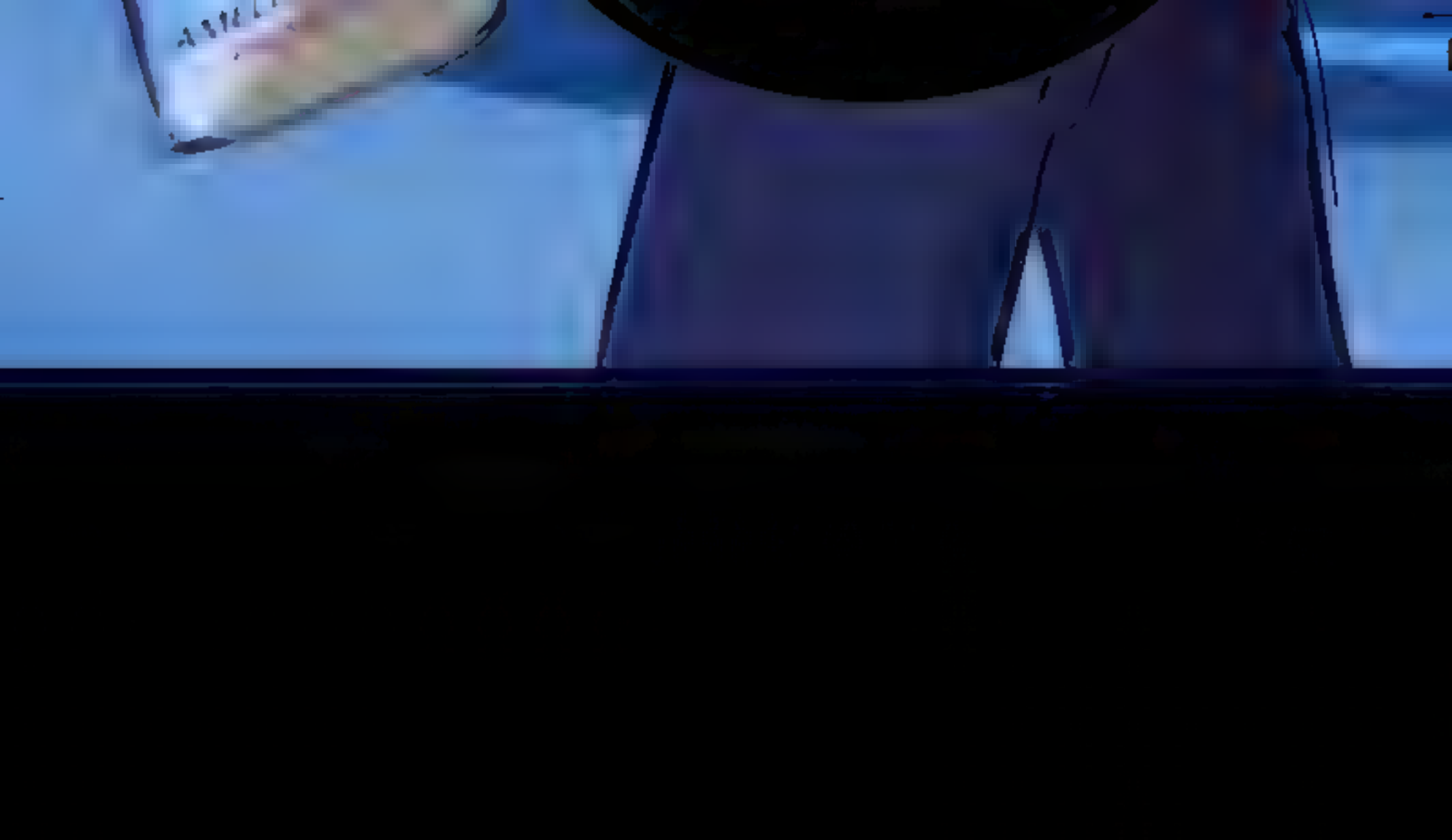

GIFTS LIKE THAT WERE REVERED AS GODS... BUT AMELIA HAD OTHER IDEAS.

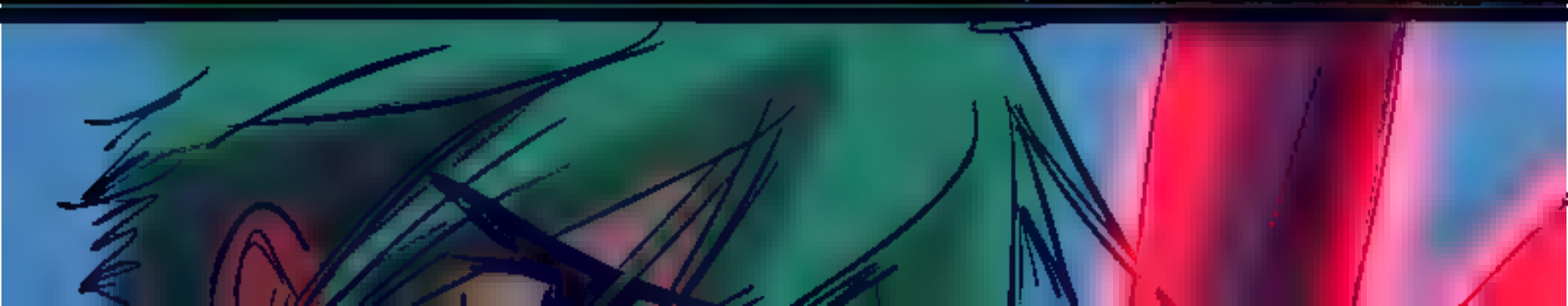


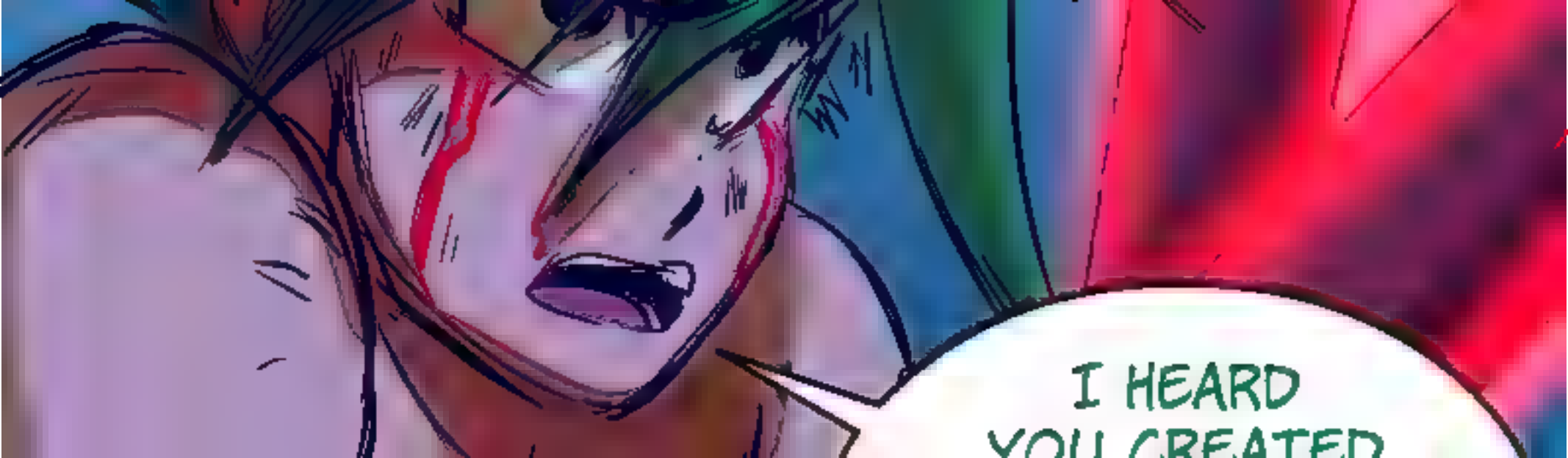

SHE BELIEVED
REALITY WAS SACRED,
AND SHE SAW OUR EXISTENCE
AS SIGNALS OF ITS COLLAPSE.
SHE CALLED THOSE WHO COULD
BREAK REALITY'S RULES "DEFIANTS"

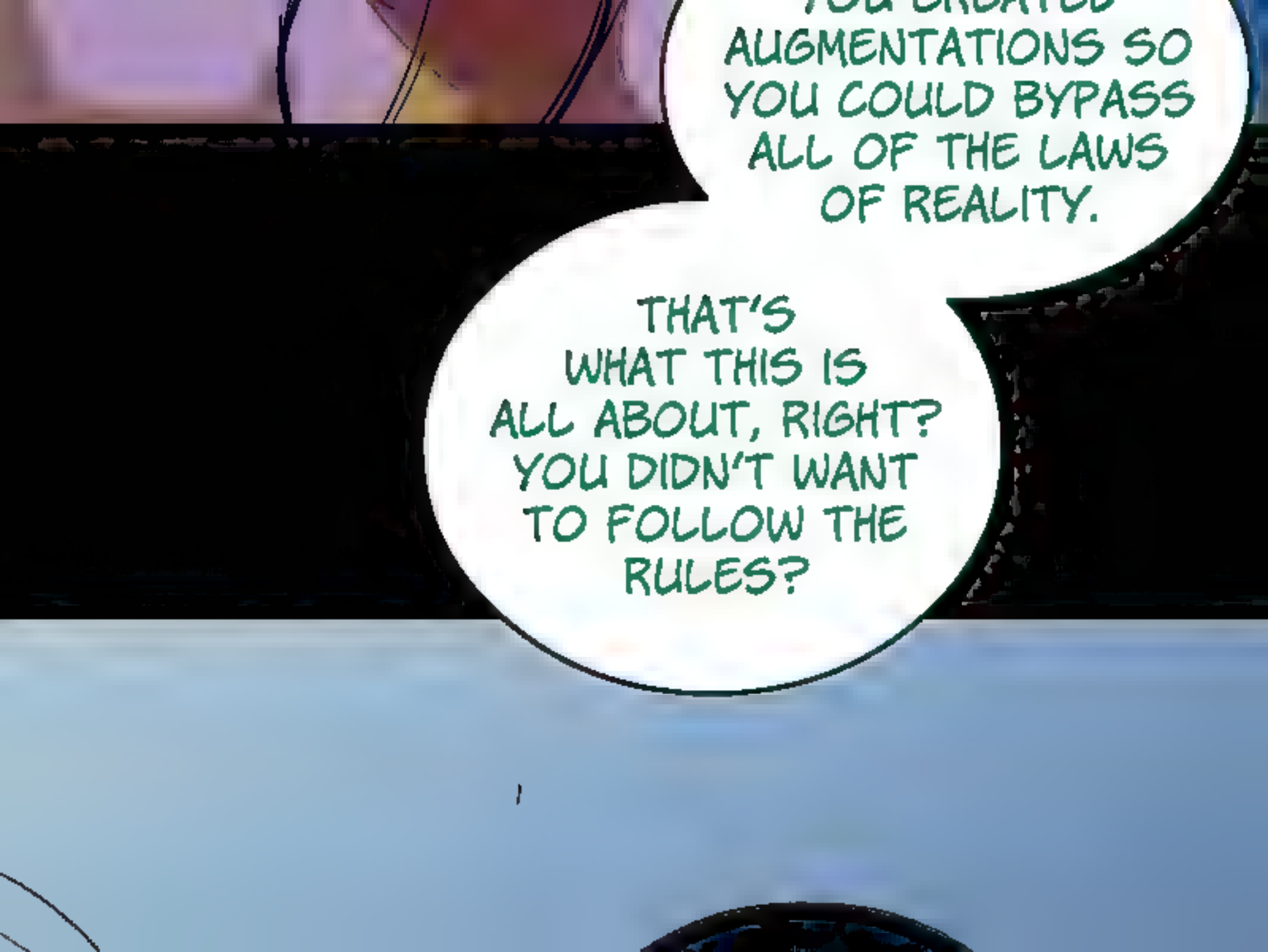
AND SHE FORMED THE VSC TO TRACK US DOWN AND INDOCTRINATE US INTO THE IDEA THAT WE SHOULD ONLY USE OUR GIFTS TO REINFORCE THE RULES WE BROKE.
TOSS


A WASTE. WITH UNLIMITED RESOURCES AND POWER, WHY NOT DESIGN SOMETHING BETTER THAN REALITY?



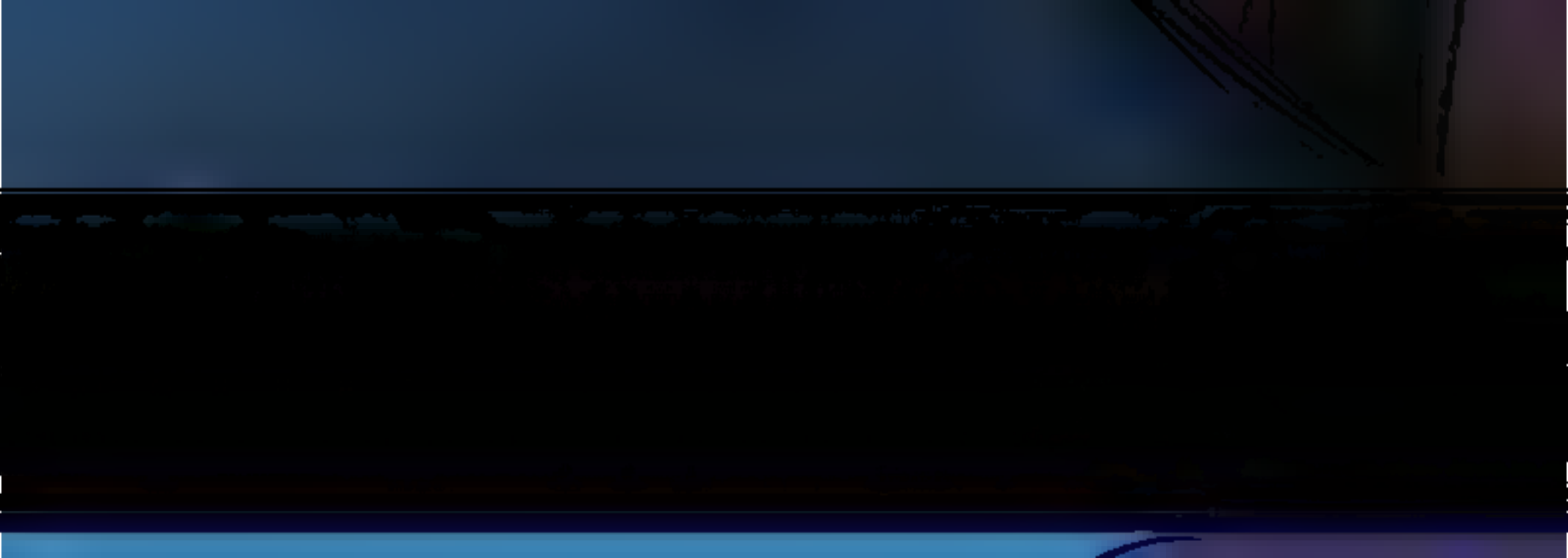



I HEARD
YOU CREATED


AUGMENTATIONS SO YOU COULD BYPASS ALL OF THE LAWS OF REALITY.
THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, RIGHT? YOU DIDN'T WANT TO FOLLOW THE RULES?

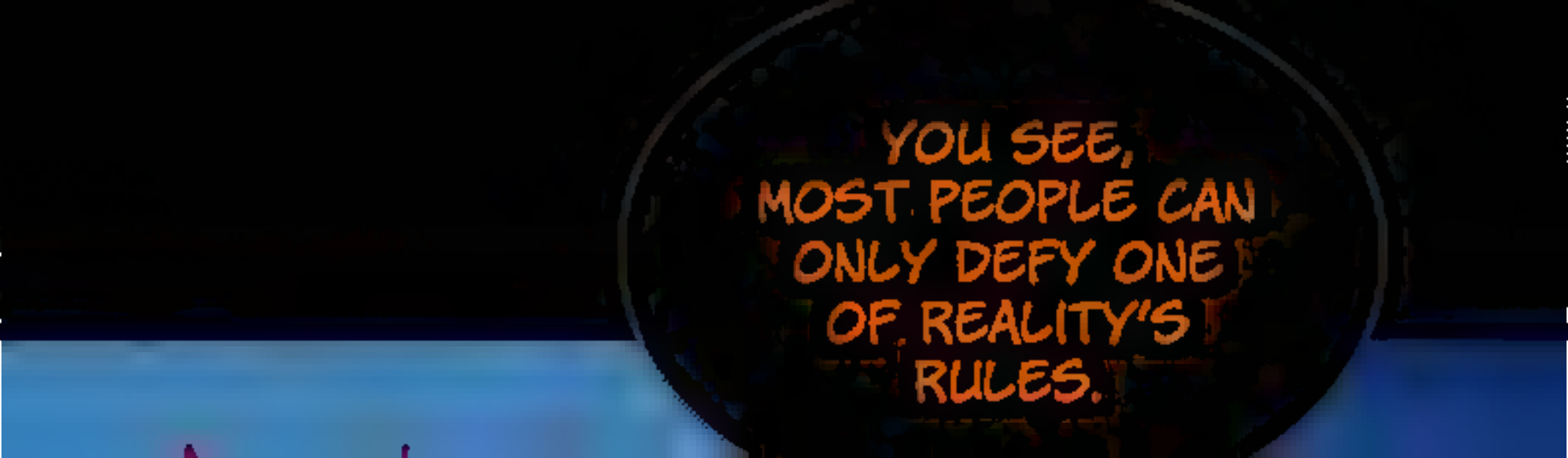
WHY MUST GODS FOLLOW THE RULES OF MEN?

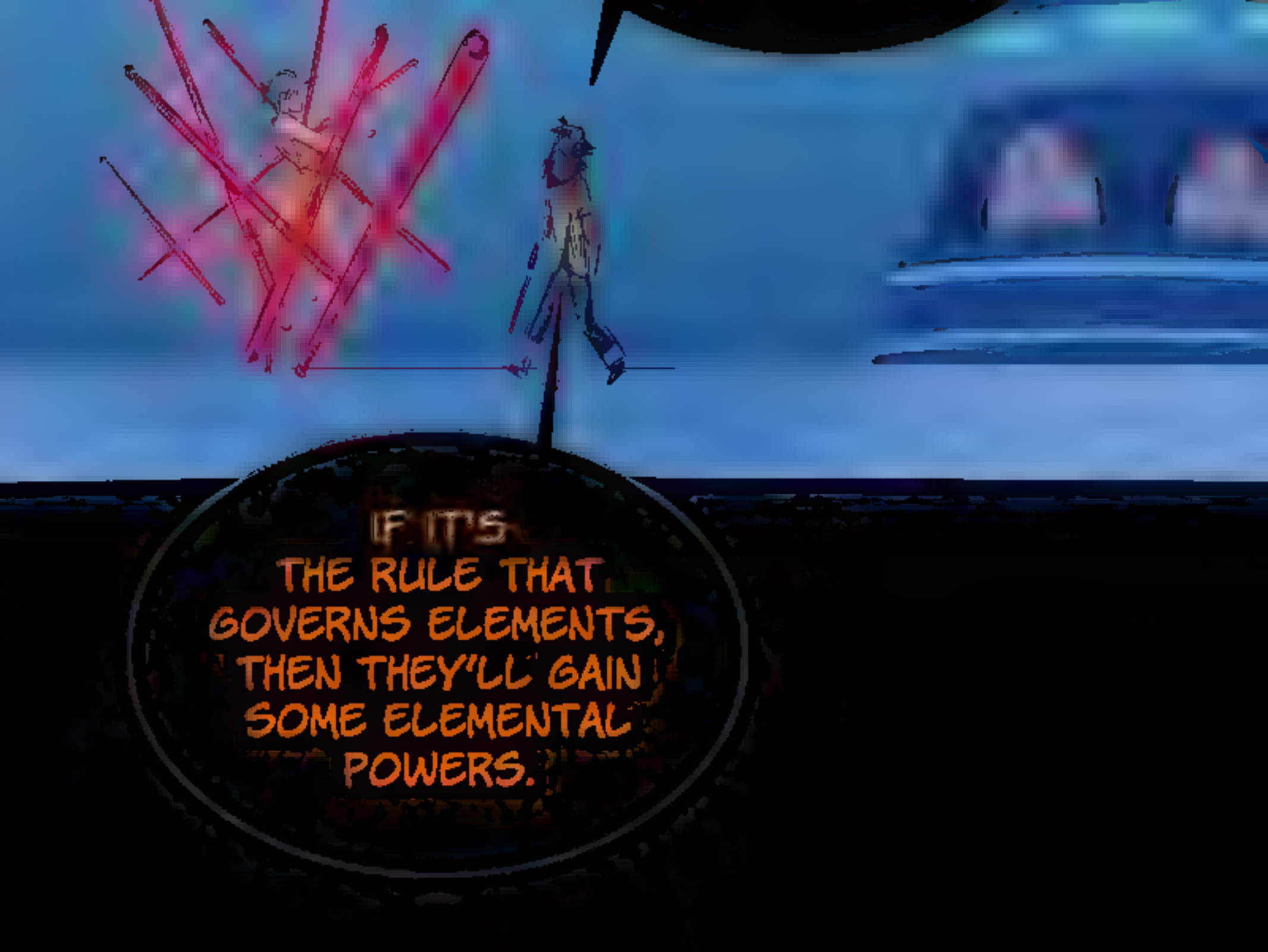
AMELIA KARIKO
PRESIDENT
WE ARE THE SUPERIOR BEINGS.

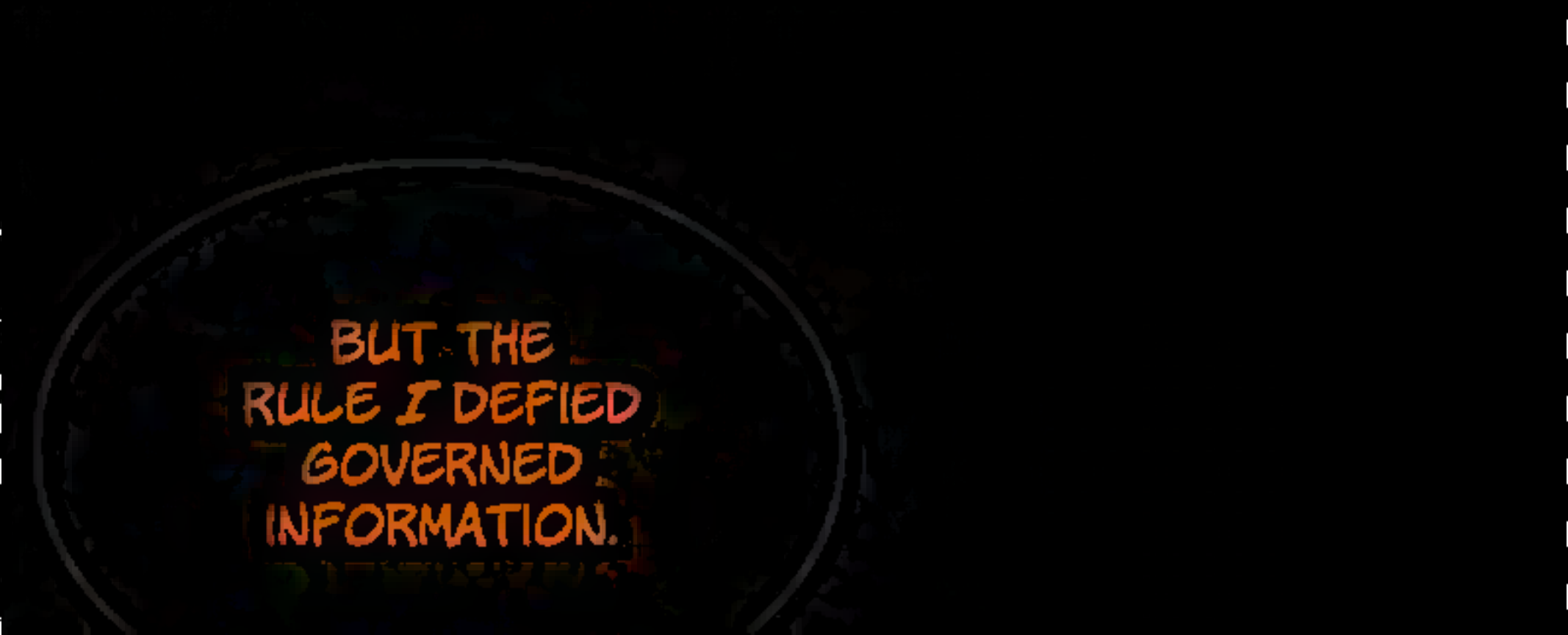


AND I AM

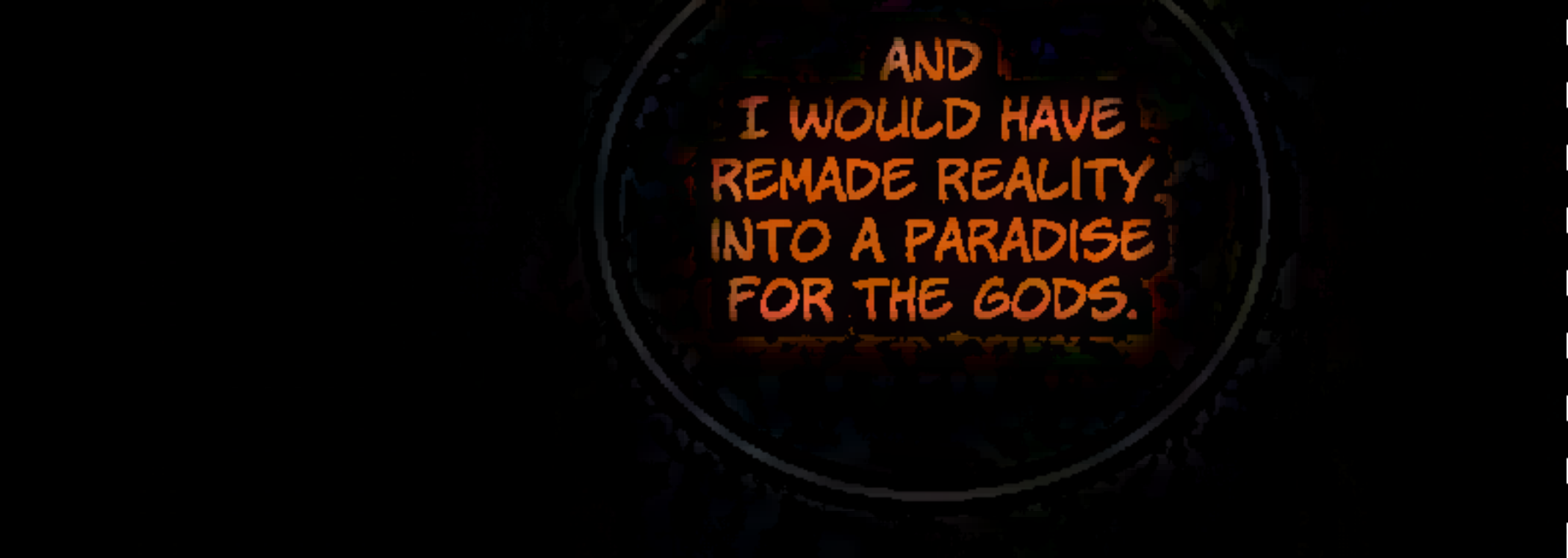
THE GOD OF
THE GODS.


YOU SEE, MOST PEOPLE CAN ONLY DEFY ONE OF REALITY'S RULES.

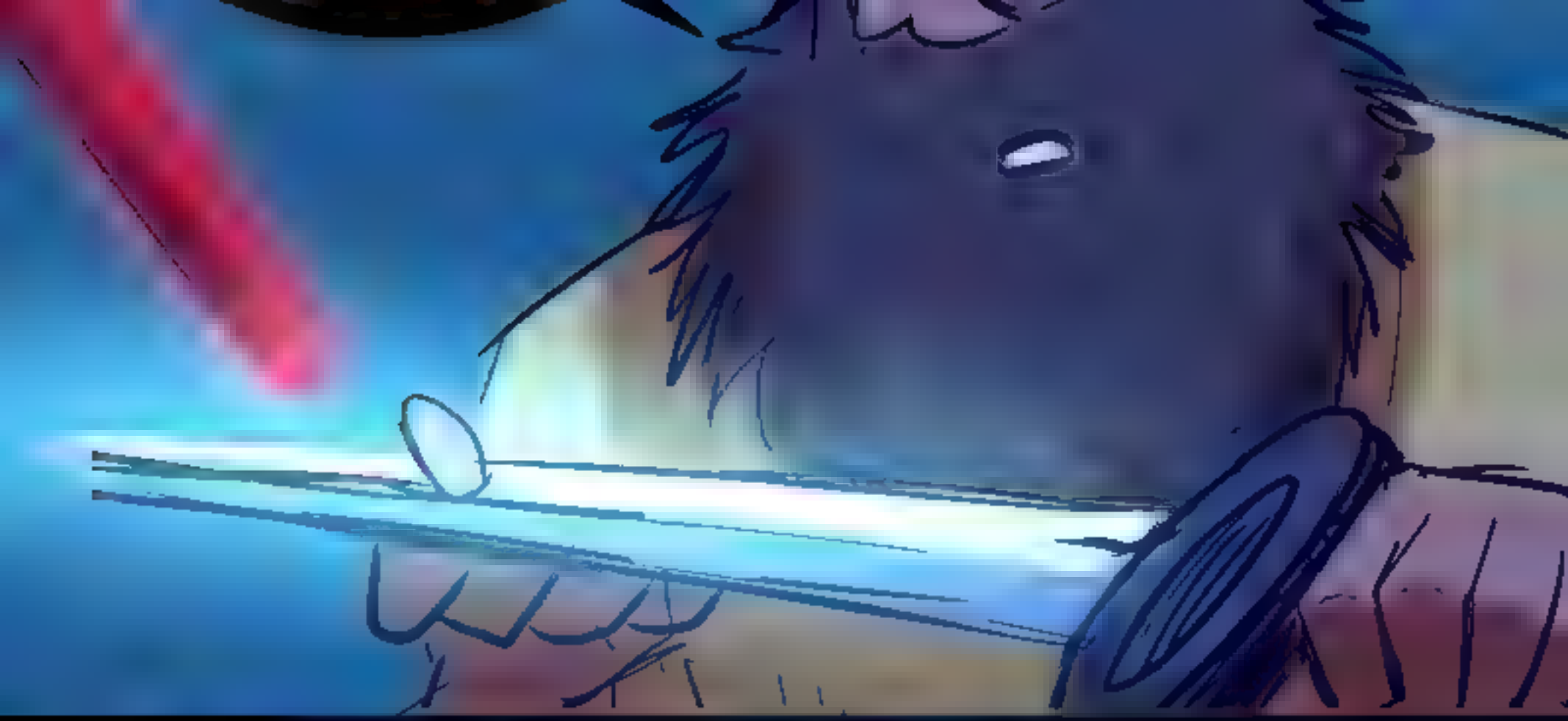

IF IT'S
THE RULE THAT
GOVERNS ELEMENTS,
THEN THEY'LL GAIN
SOME ELEMENTAL
POWERS.

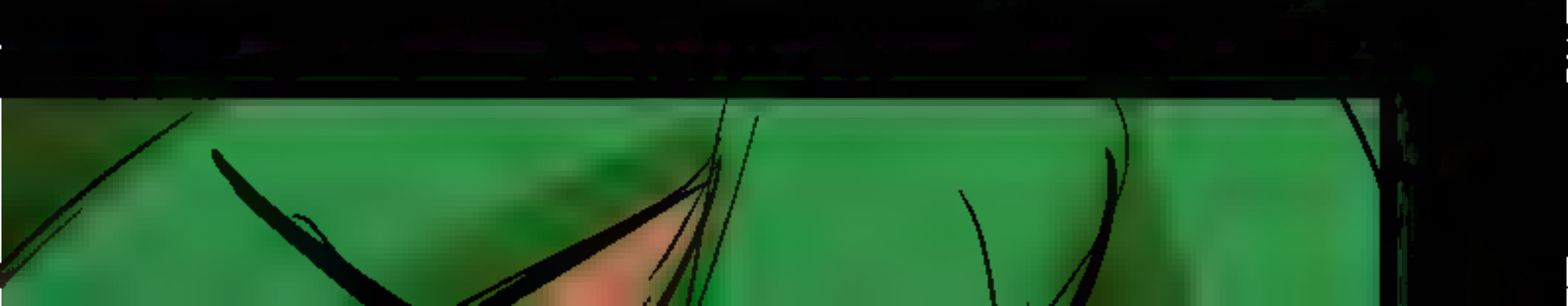

BUT THE
RULE I DEFIED
GOVERNED
INFORMATION.

AND WITH THAT POWER, I WROTE AUGMENTATIONS TO BREAK EVERY OTHER RULE.


AND
I WOULD HAVE
REMADE REALITY
INTO A PARADISE
FOR THE GODS.

BUT THEN A STRANGE ENEMY APPEARED.





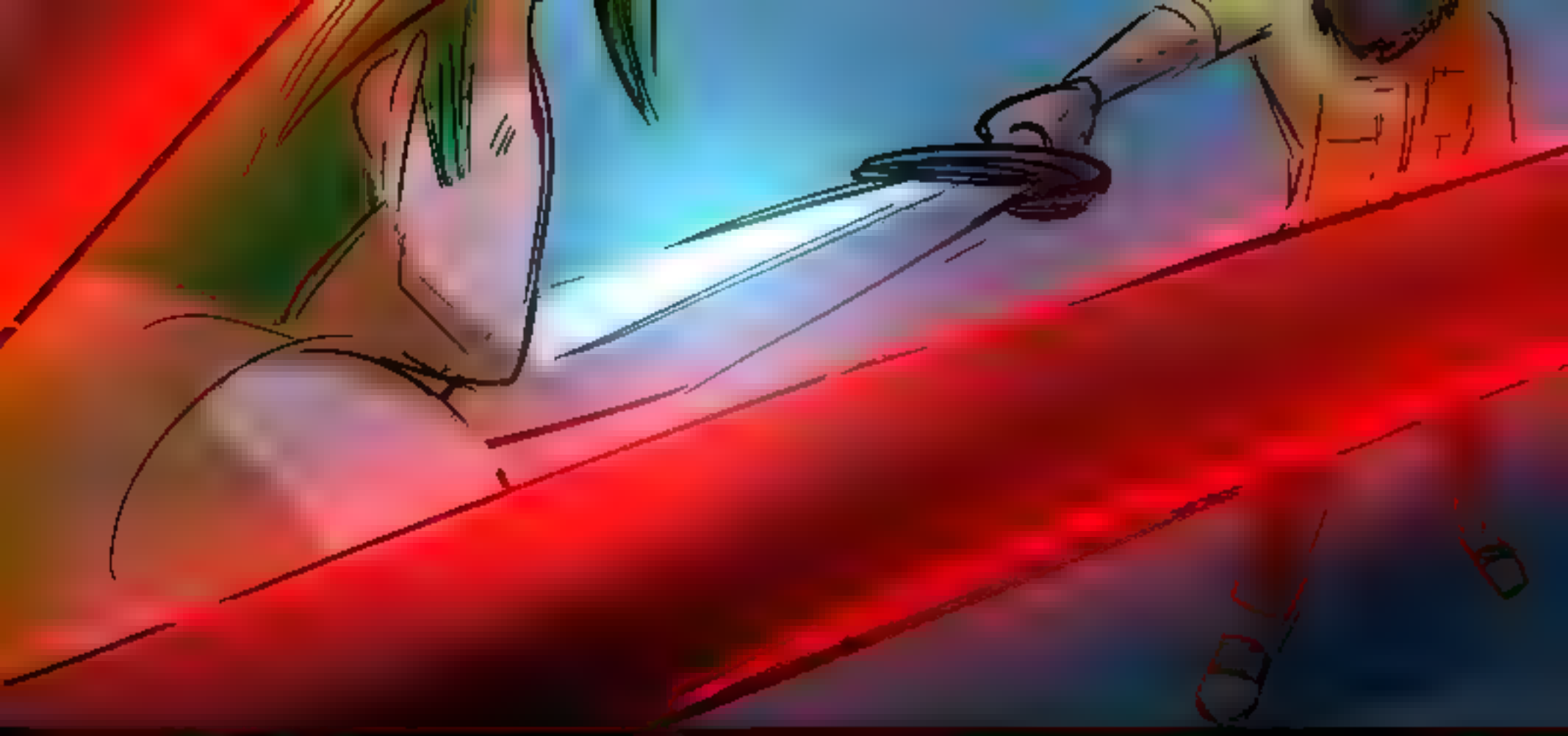
MASIOSARE.

SHING

THAT'S THE NAME I GAVE YOU.

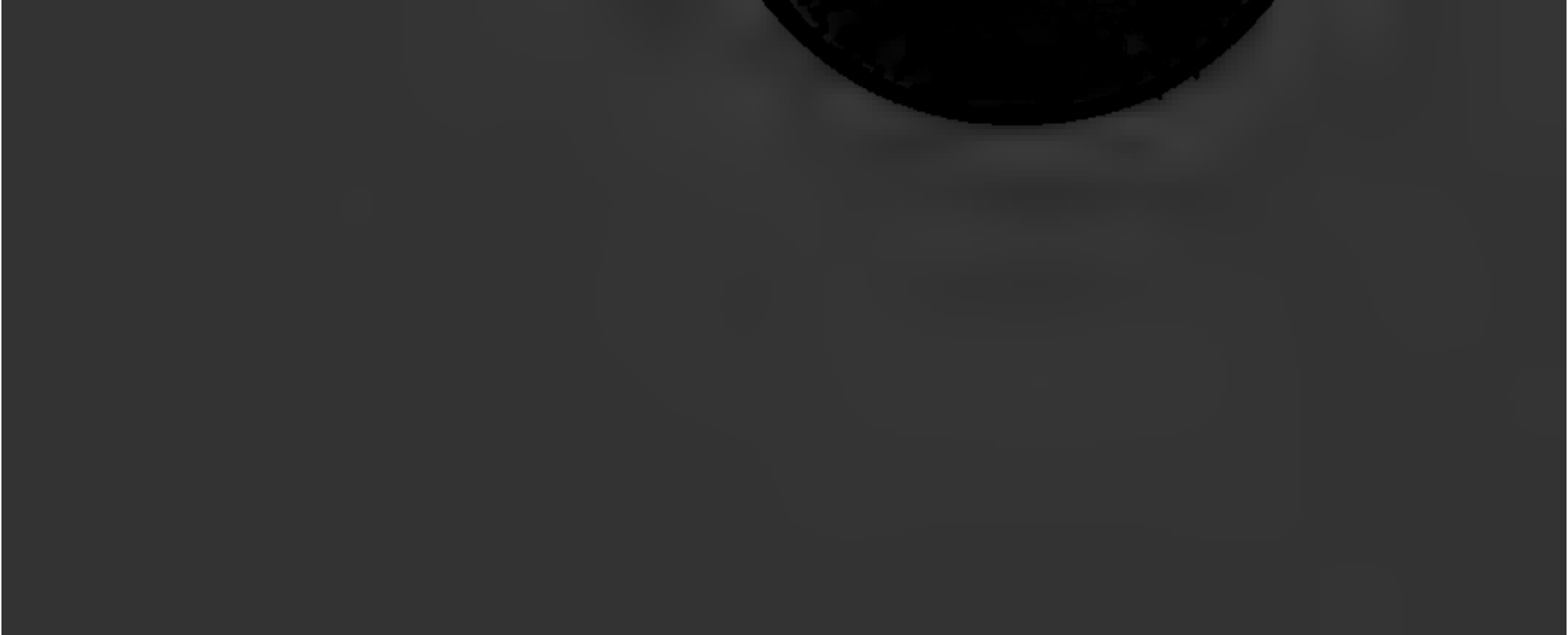
WHEN YOU
CAME OUT OF
NOWHERE AND STOLE

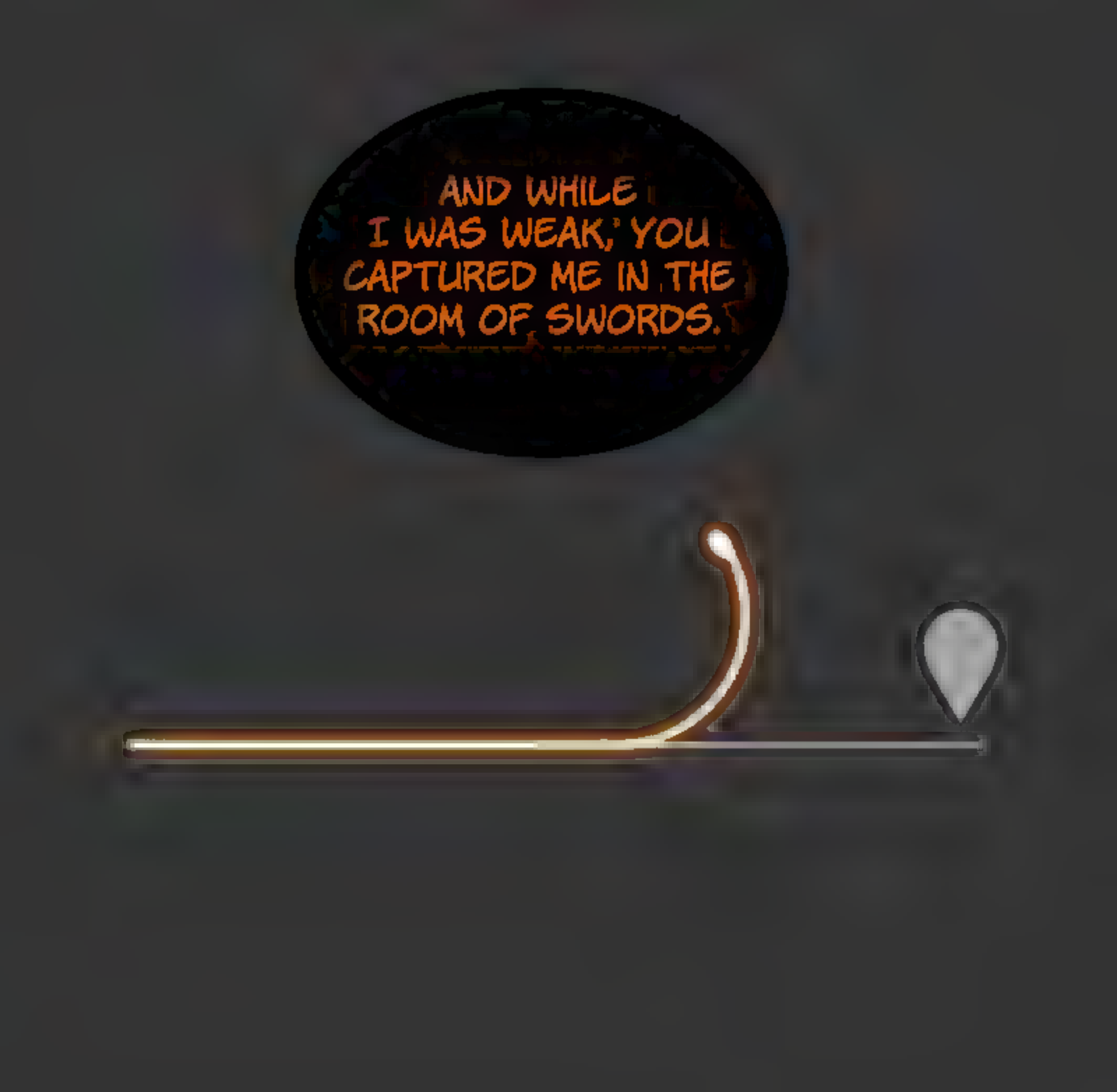
NOWHERE AND STOLE
EVERYTHING
FROM ME."



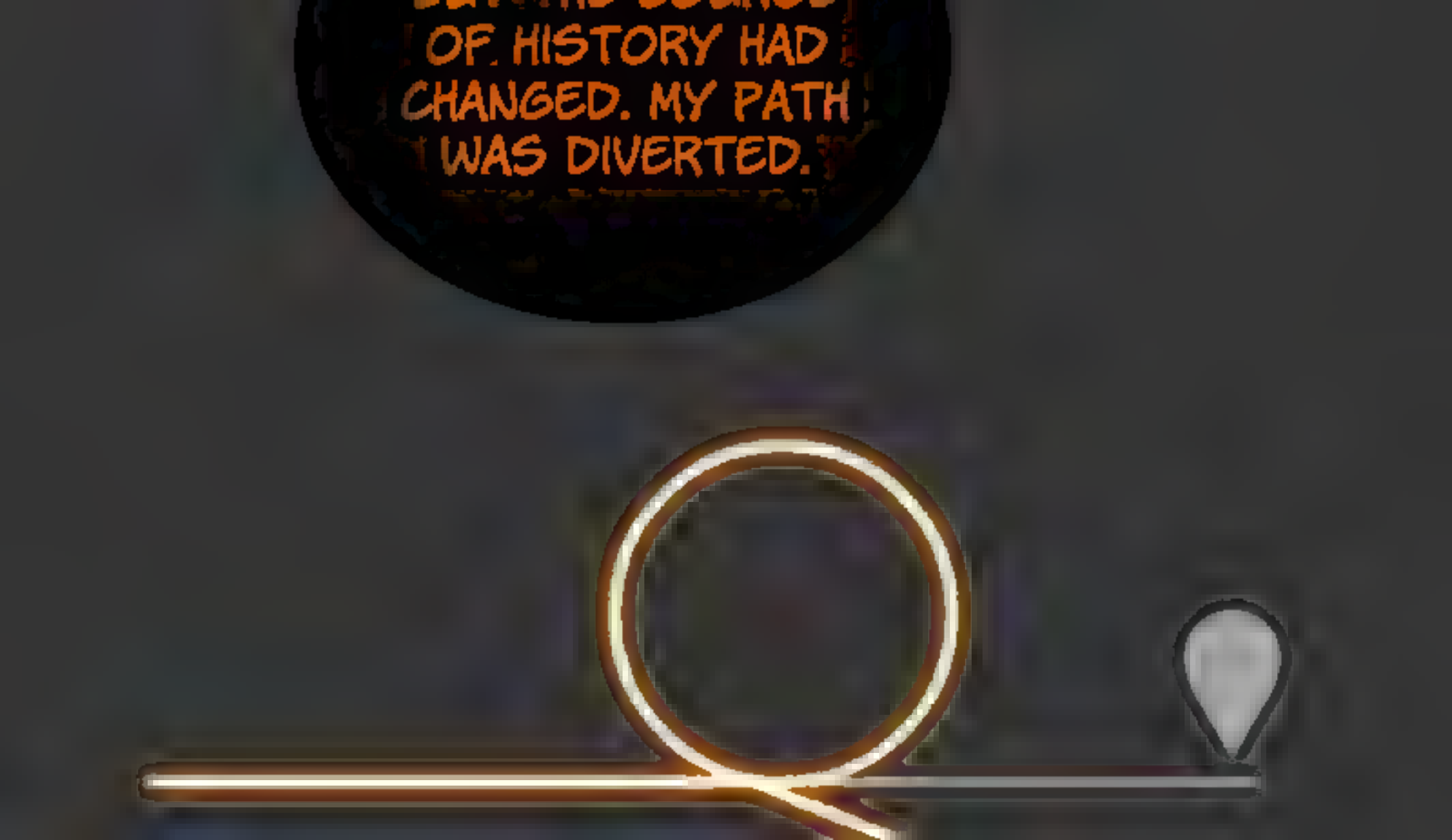
JUST AS

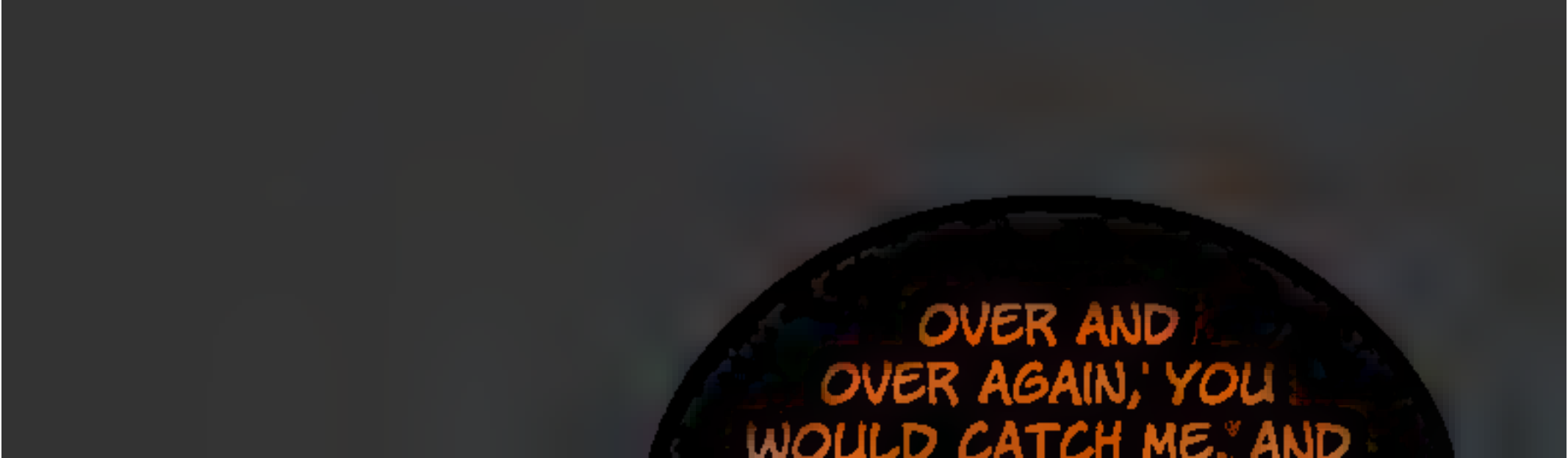
MY GOALS WERE IN REACH...
YOU STRIPPED AND SEALED AWAY MY AUGMENTATIONS IN THE BOSS SWORDS.

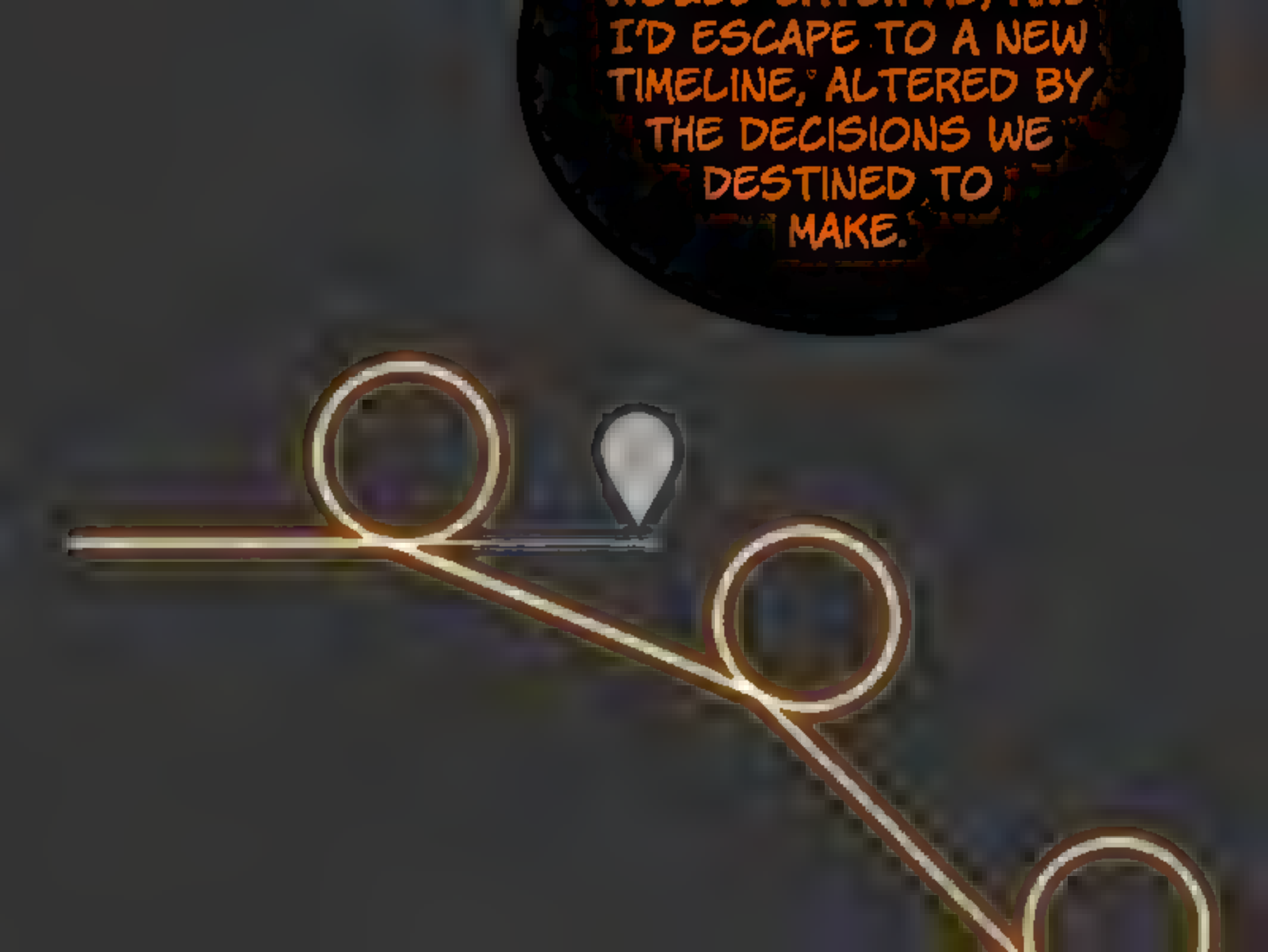


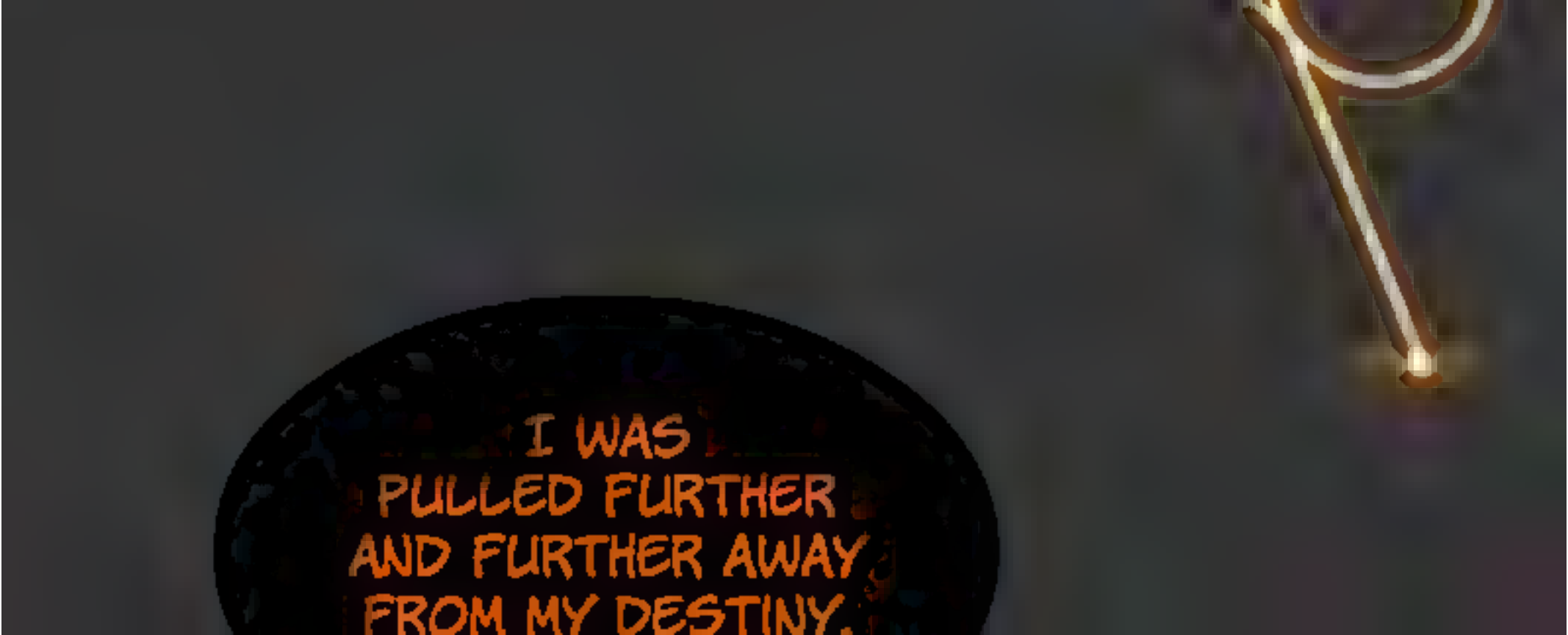

AND WHILE I WAS WEAK, YOU CAPTURED ME IN THE ROOM OF SWORDS.

I ESCAPED,
BUT THE COURSE

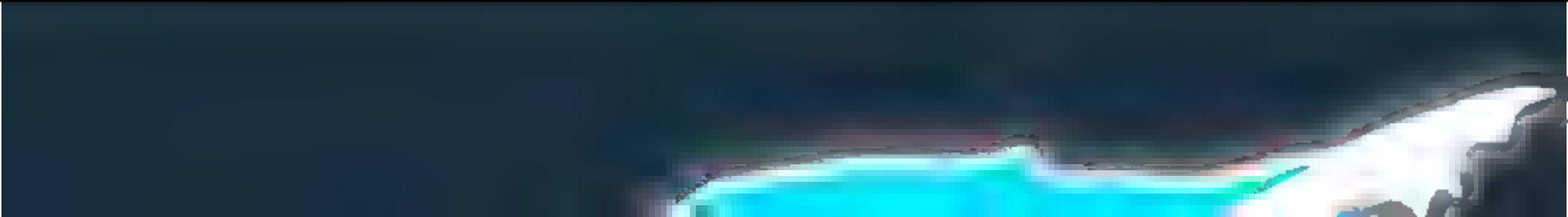

OF HISTORY HAD
CHANGED. MY PATH
WAS DIVERTED.


OVER AND
OVER AGAIN,' YOU
WOULD CATCH ME,' AND


I'D ESCAPE TO A NEW TIMELINE, ALTERED BY THE DECISIONS WE DESTINED TO MAKE.


I WAS
PULLED FURTHER
AND FURTHER AWAY
FROM MY DESTINY.

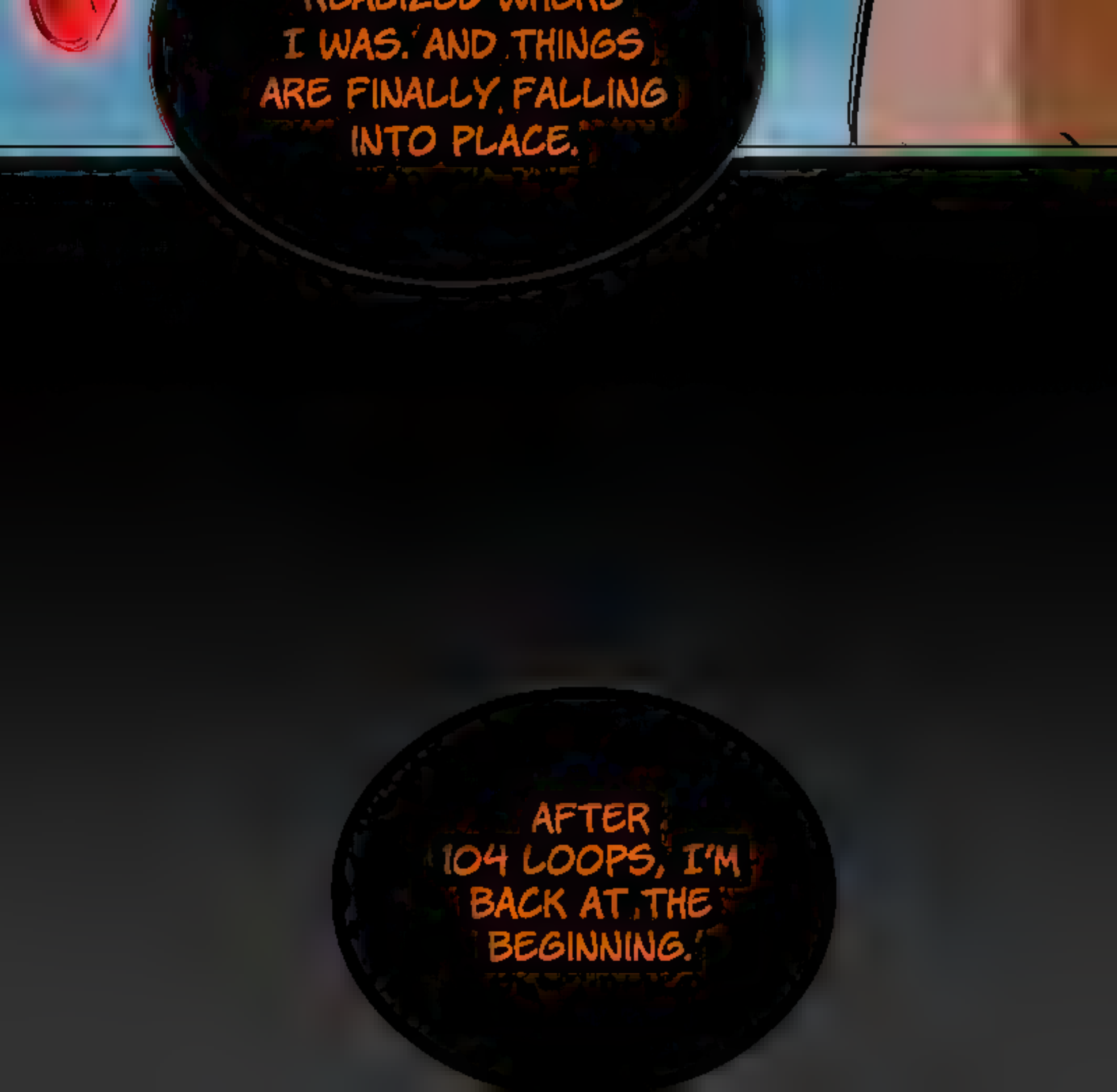
OR SO I
THOUGHT.



AT FIRST, I
WAS ANGRY WHEN

I FELL THROUGH
THE RIFT.

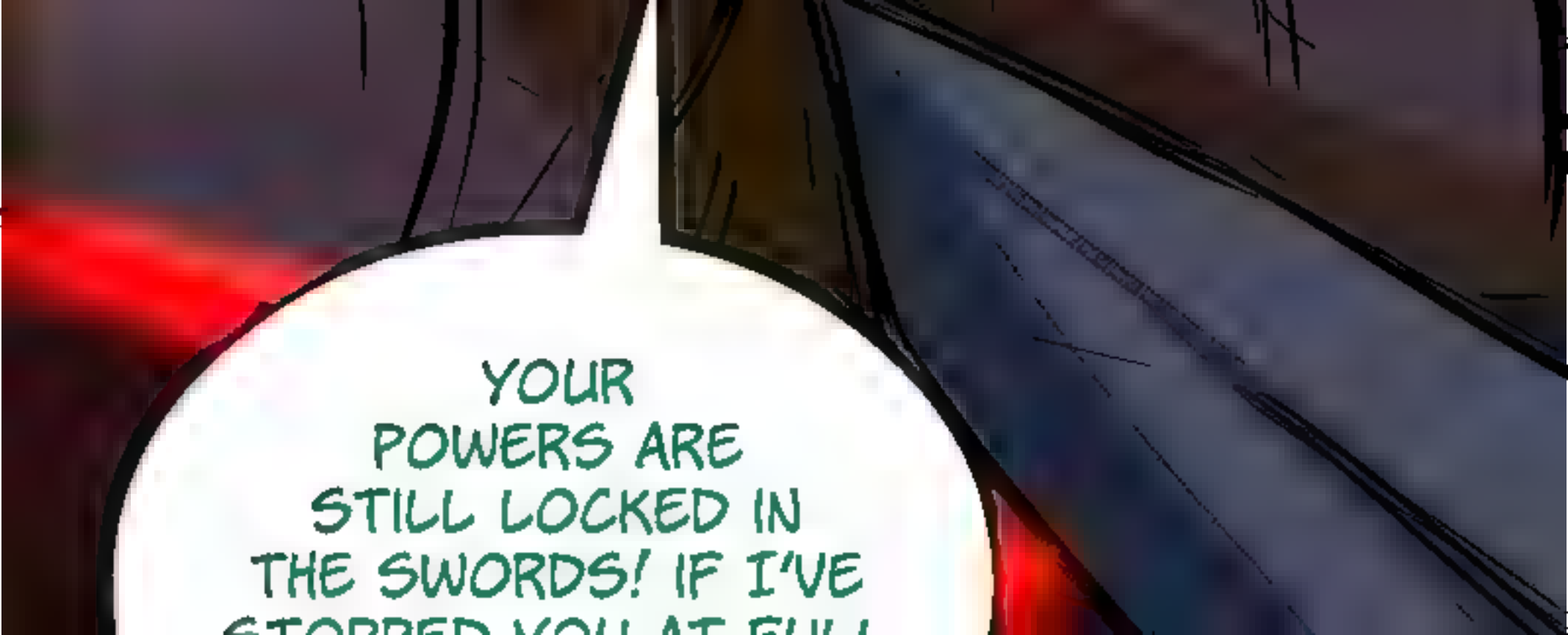
BUT THEN I
REALIZED WHERE


I WAS. AND THINGS ARE FINALLY FALLING INTO PLACE.
AFTER 104 LOOPS, I'M BACK AT THE BEGINNING.

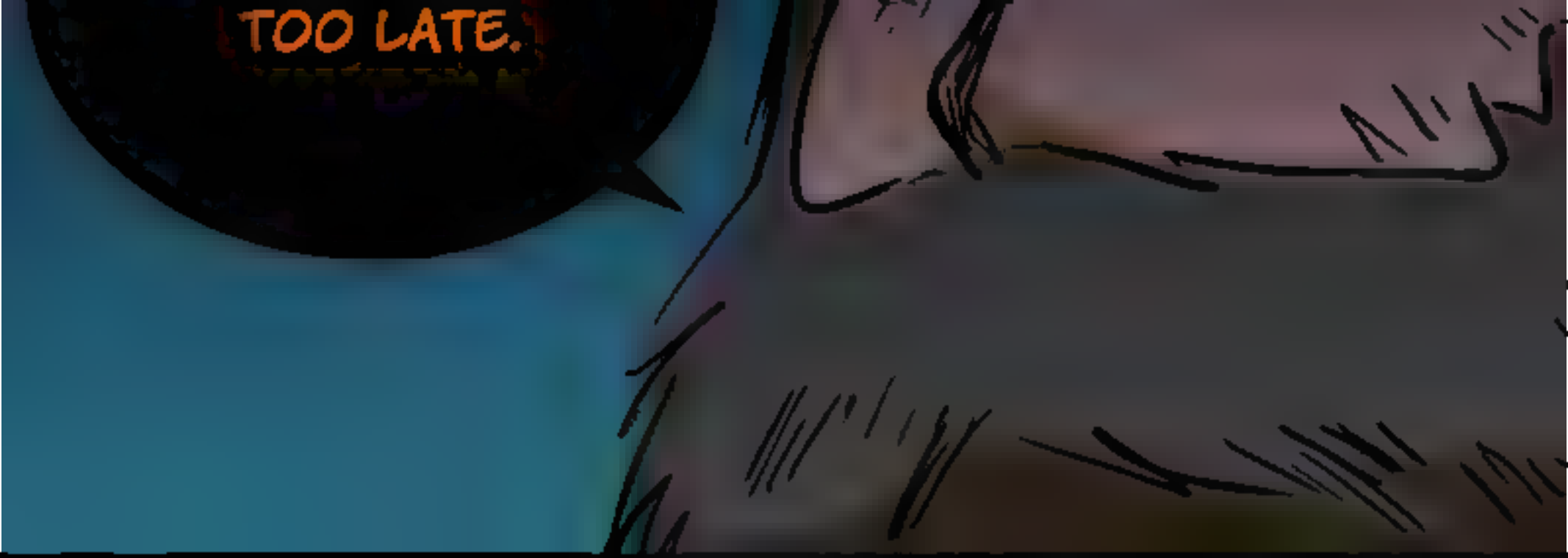
MY DESTINY AWAITS... AND EVERYONE WHO STOOD AGAINST ME WILL PAY IN MY NEW WORLD.

YOU HAVEN'T
WON ANYTHING

YET!

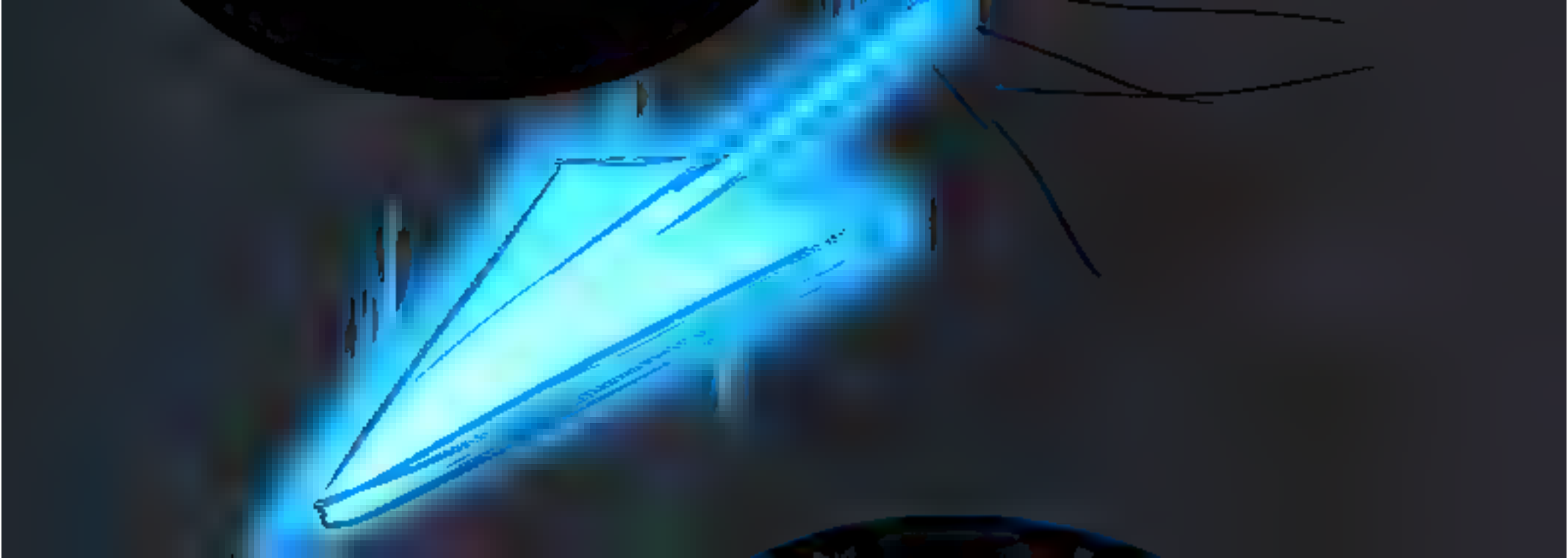

YOUR
POWERS ARE
STILL LOCKED IN
THE SWORDS! IF I'VE

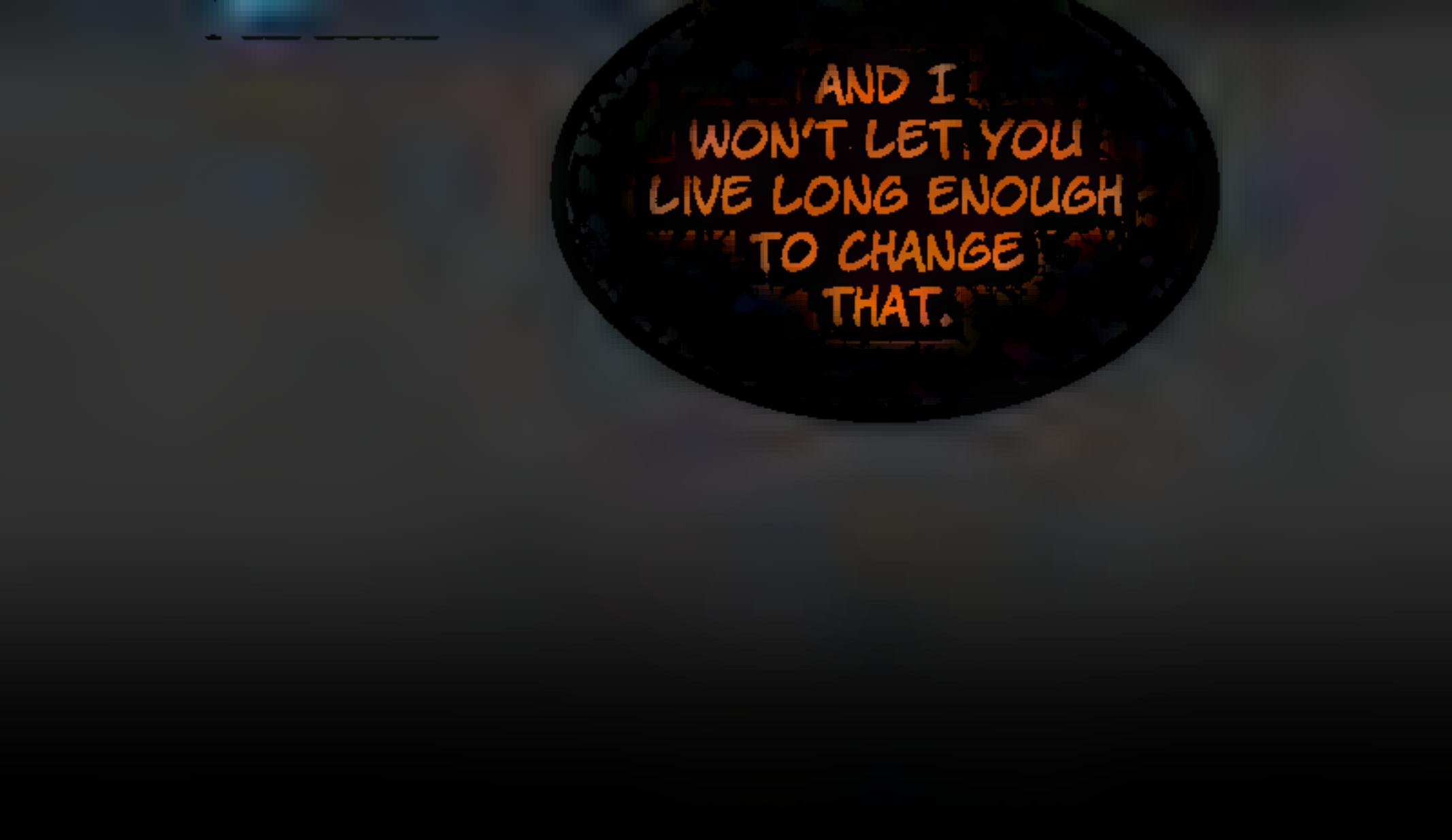
STOPPED YOU AT FULL POWER, I CAN STOP YOU NOW!
I'M AFRAID IT'S


TOO LATE.

YOU HAD POTENTIAL.

MASIOSARE WAS A FORMIDABLE ADVERSARY.
BUT YOU TURNED AWAY FROM THAT FUTURE ALREADY.




AND I
WON'T LET YOU
LIVE LONG ENOUGH
TO CHANGE
THAT.

...WHY ARE YOU STILL TAUNTING ME IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO KILL ME ANYWAY?

ARE YOU STALLING? WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?!

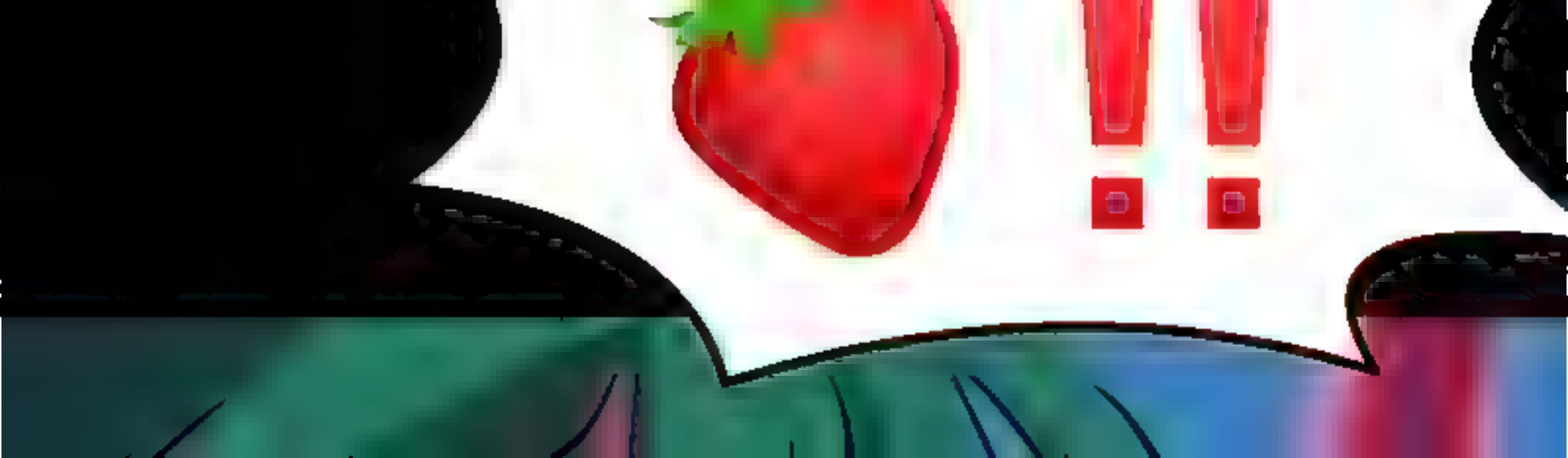
DIDN'T
I SAY THESE

BARS WERE DESIGNED TO SUBDUE POWERS FOR THE SAKE OF EXAMINATION? THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING.
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED IN THE TUNNEL, LET'S JUST SAY I WASN'T SURE ALL TRACES OF MASIOSARE'S SHADOW

HAD DISAPPEARED.
BUT THE

FACT.THAT.YOU
HAVEN'T.BEEN ABLE
TO FREE YOURSELF
EVEN WHEN YOUR LIFE
DEPENDS ON
IT...
HAS REASSURED

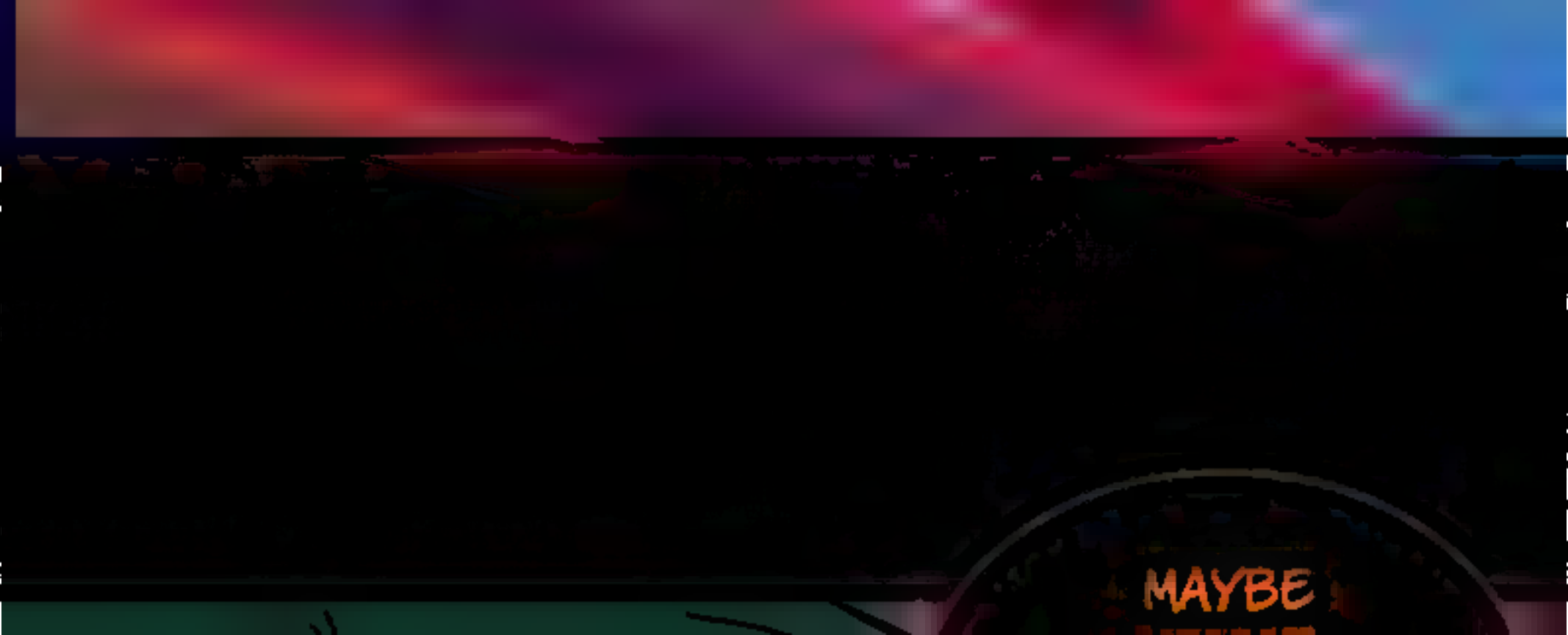
ME THAT YOU'RE AS
UTTERLY HELPLESS
AS I'D IMAGINED.



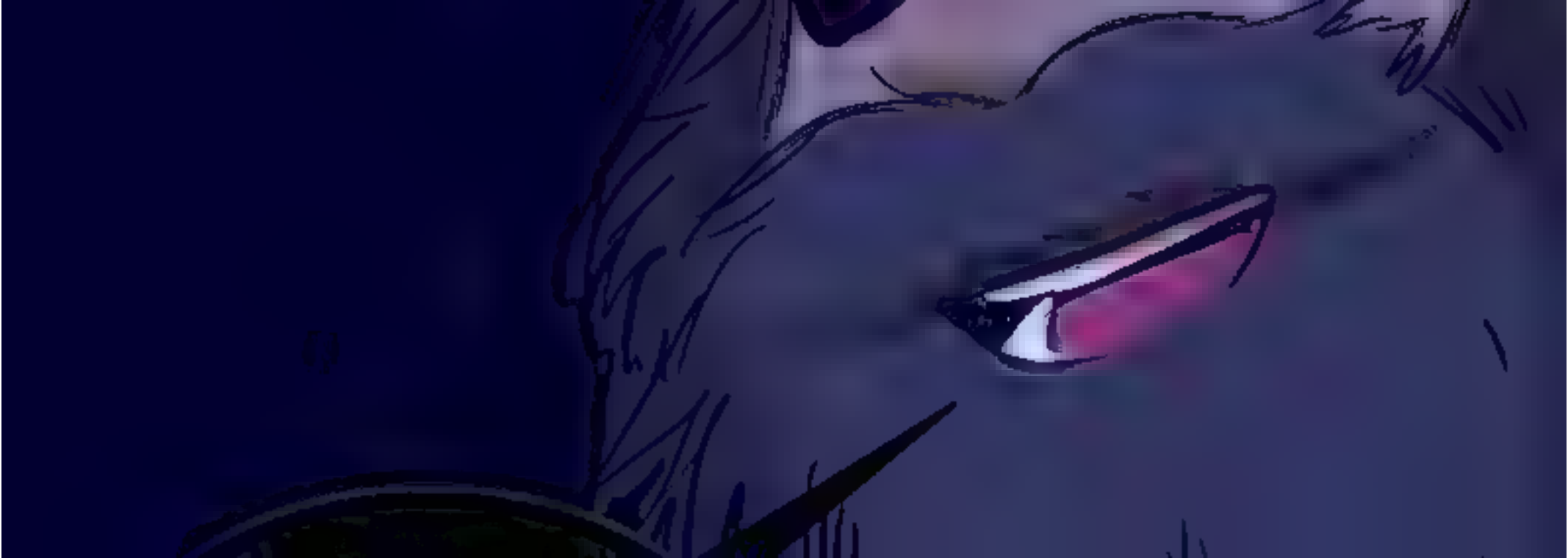
WHERE ARE YOU, CADET?!

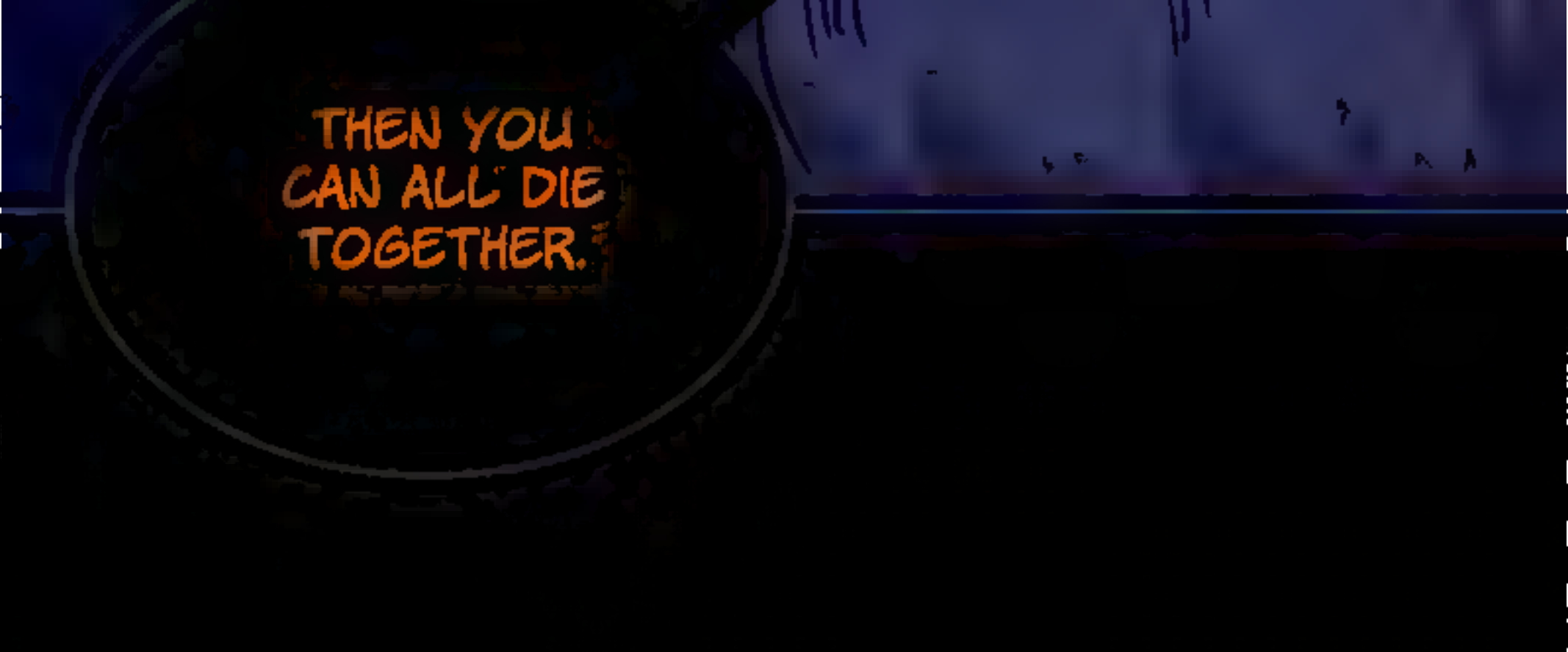
SOUNDS
LIKE YOUR FRIENDS

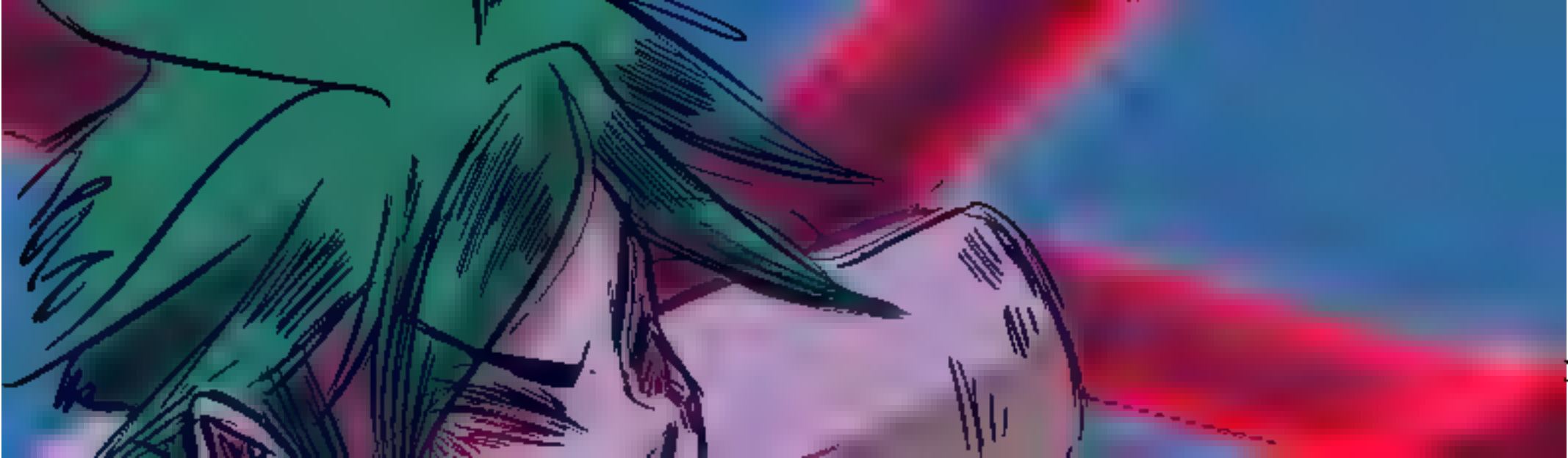
HAVE COME LOOKING
FOR YOU.


MAYBE

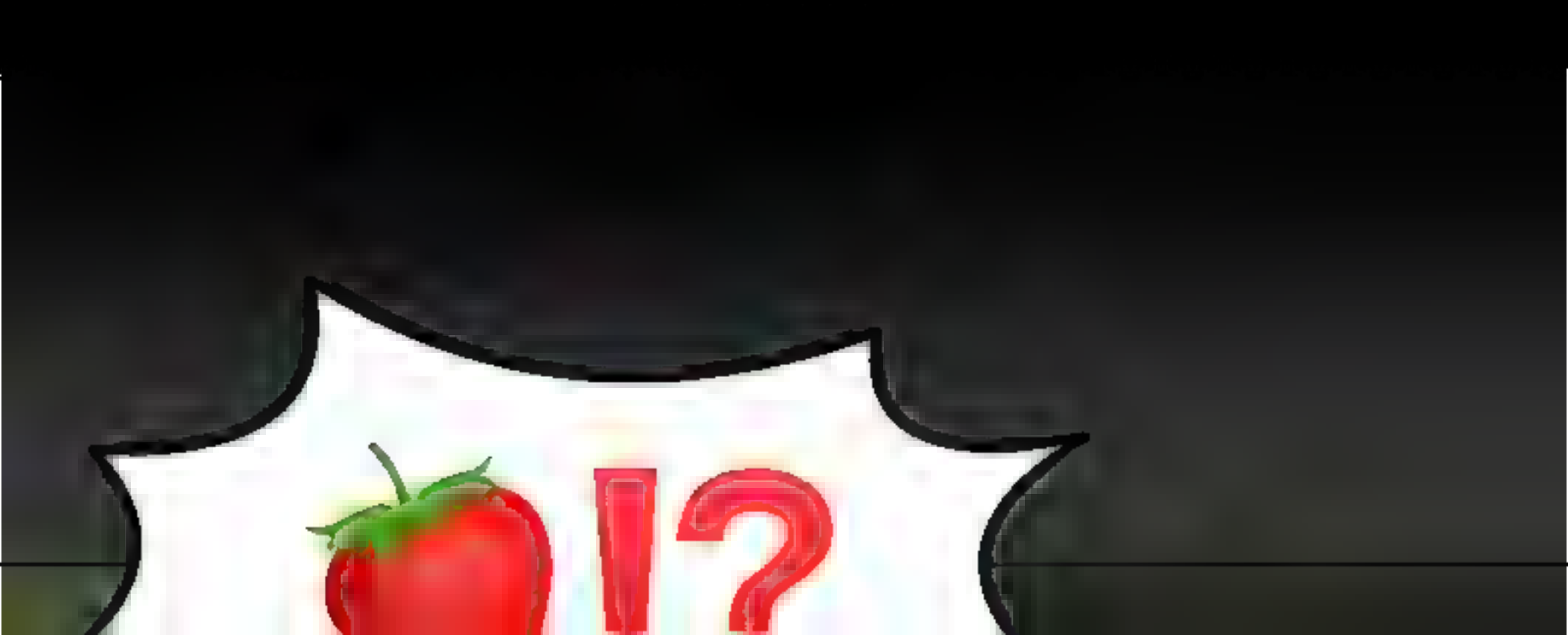
YOU SHOULD CALL TO THEM




THEN YOU CAN ALL DIE TOGETHER.



AGH!!
PRESS

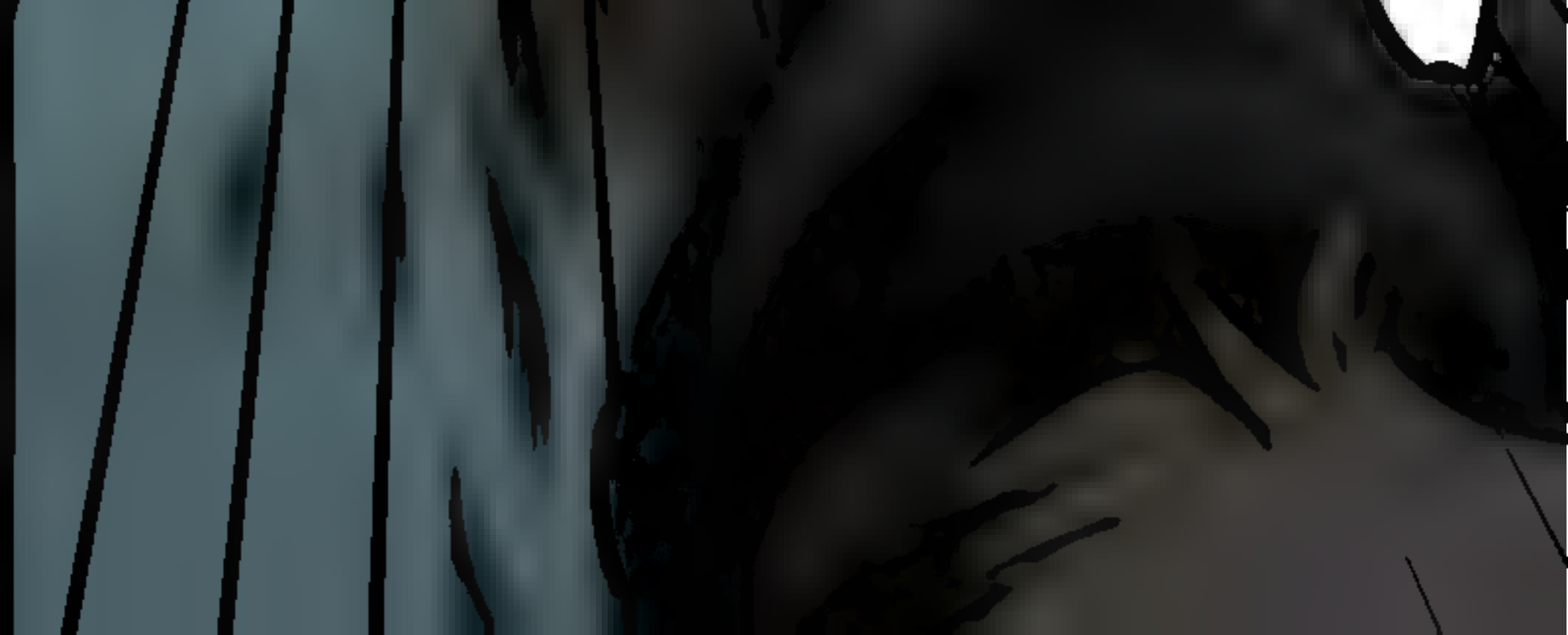


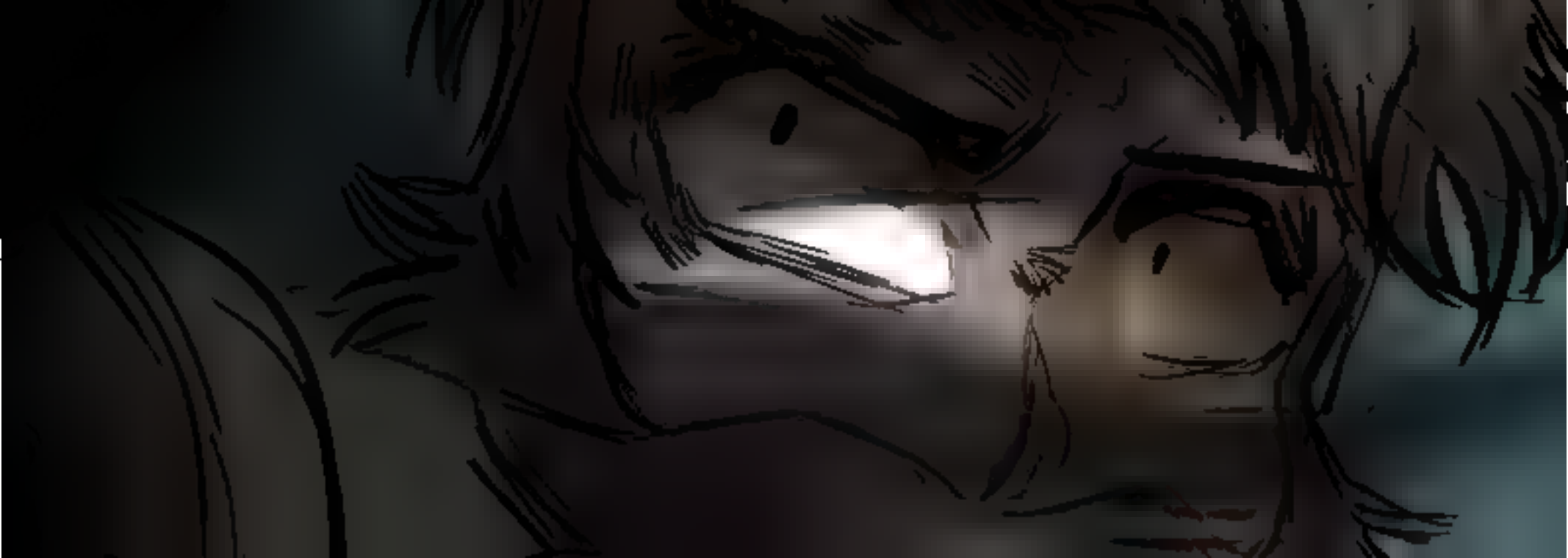
GYRUS!?
WHERE ARE
YOU!?

AAAGHH!!

Ts
s
s

S





HIJO
DE P---!

ROOM of
SWORDS

SWORDS
UPDATES EVERY MONDAY

COLOR ASSISTANT:
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